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Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Terms for Dialogue

'Source' Expects Rejection of Terms

JN1807192490 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, July 18 (GNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has called for an emergency meeting for the PLO's Executive Committee in Tunis today, a Qatari paper reported Wednesday [18 July].

Daily AL-RAYAH quoted an official Palestinian source as saying that the meeting will discuss outcome of Egyptian-American contacts targeting resumption of U.S.-PLO dialogue and implementation of the recent Baghdad Arab summit resolutions on extending urgent financial aid to support the uprising.

The source said that the meeting would also discuss political situation in the Middle East region in the light of indications that efforts were being exerted to find alternatives to the PLO.

He expected the PLO to declare rejection of American conditions on resuming the dialogue at end of its two-day meeting since members of the Executive Committee were unanimous on refusing to expel Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from the committee.

The Palestinian leadership had postponed a meeting for the Central Council, a liaison body between the Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile), in Baghdad until after the Executive Committee decides on the dialogue issue.

PLO Radio Rejects Terms

JN1807155490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 Jul 90

["A Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "The U.S. Conditions Are an Act of Belligerence That Cannot Be Condoned"]

[Text] Dear brothers: The U.S. Administration officials seize every opportunity to declare that combating terrorism is their prime and pressing moral duty in their capacity as protectors of human rights in the world. U.S. President George Bush always reiterates his abhorrence of terrorism and that his country will continue to combat terrorism everywhere. Of course, such talk might be well received and found commendable by a Martian, for example, if we suppose that the residents of other planets do not have access to the means of communication that would allow them to know the truth. Terrorism, according to the U.S. Administration, is everything that has something to do with the peoples' struggle for freedom, progress, and independence. Hence, according to its logic, policy, and concept of terrorism, the United States does not oppose the policy of killing, repression, torture, and organized terrorism practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people. No, the United States gives unflinching support to this policy. It is extending unlimited financial, military, political, diplomatic, and media support for this policy. The reason is that the Palestinian people, according to U.S. logic, are the party perpetrating terrorism, because they are seeking to attain their freedom and independence.

It has been proven more than once that U.S. logic sanctions the crimes of killing, slaying, and extermination perpetrated by Israel against unarmed Palestinian civilians and prohibits the Palestinians from resisting and confronting these crimes, even if this resistance and confrontation were to take place through legitimate means of struggle. Is not this the essence and meaning of the U.S. terms for resuming the dialogue with the PLO?

Yes, it has been indisputably confirmed that the U.S. Administration always uses double standards whenever the issue concerns the Middle East and the position to be taken on its main issue. Moreover, it has been confirmed that its concept of human rights is tailored to suit its savage and aggressive policy, which is marked, inter alia, by persistent efforts to falsify the truth and also by a strong fascination with exhibitionism and pretensions.

This U.S. Administration, which raises the banner of combating terrorism, is actually an international party that, more than others, perpetrates terrorism directly against peoples and states, and also through its arrogant logic and political positions that are always tilted in favor of [words indistinct].

Today, the United States is leading the ugliest campaign of terror against the Palestinian people, their PLO, and their valiant intifadah, and also against the Arab region and countries seeking scientific and technological advancement, and particularly against Iraq. It has continued to wage a smear campaign against Iraq for no other reason than that it is exercising its natural and logical right to acquire science and technology and to consecrate the principle of creativity, modernization, and self-reliance in securing the defense requirements needed by the homeland and the nation.

Through these policies and its aggressive campaign against Palestine and Iraq, the United States is pushing the Arab region to the highest degree of tension, and to the verge of a conflagration and war that might prove to be devastating in view of the strategic and nonconventional weapons that might be used in such a war. The United States is deliberately ignoring Arab peace overtures and serious Arab efforts to achieve regional security, stability, and peace. It is neglecting its responsibilities as a superpower to make efforts for peace, security, and stability in various parts of the world [words indistinct]. The United States is trying to subjugate and humiliate the Arab region, deluding itself into believing that [words indistinct].

The United States has continued to shirk its responsibilities. It has chosen not to notice the Arab plan for a comprehensive ban on weapons of mass destruction in

the region. It has insisted on disarmament affecting only Arab states so Israel can remain superior and so the Arab region can be subjugated to the United States and be humiliated for many years to come. We do not know how the United States cannot see that [words indistinct] Palestine and their giant intifadah, in view of the hope and optimism that have begun to grow stronger and stronger in Arab life. The Arabs, who have undergone these changes and espoused these positions, are different from the Arabs of June 1967.

The United States must learn this fact. If it is to restore its role as a superpower charged with responsibility for world peace and stability, the United States must seek a comprehensive and real ban on weapons of mass destruction in the Arab region, foremost among which are [words indistinct] its expansionist and aggressive scheme. The United States should not ask the Arabs to offer anything before it asks Israel, its own satellite, to respond favorably to the call of reason, right, justice, and peace.

In this context, the United States must show a little balance. It should not ask the PLO for things that it does not demand from Israel. It should not ask Iraq to meet demands not submitted to Israel. The United States deludes itself into believing that the Palestinians are ready to resume the useless dialogue with it. Consequently, it sets terms for a resumption of this dialogue according to its whims. Moreover, the United States harbors the delusion that its smear campaigns against the Arab nation, and Iraq in particular, can terrorize us and bring about the imposition of its conditions on us.

Last but not least, the United States must know quite well that the logic of aggression and arrogance is no longer acceptable in our region. And above everything else, the United States must know that we view its humiliating conditions as a blatant act of belligerence that cannot be condoned. We will resist this belligerence with all our might until it has been irreversibly and completely defeated and until we attain our great, comprehensive, and uncompromising victory.

Commentary on PLO Position

LD1807221390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jul 90

["Political commentary"]

[Excerpts] The PLO's position on the causes on which the U.S. veto to pursuing dialogue with the organization was based is clear. The PLO is eager to maintain dialogue, to promote it, and to use it for performing a genuine role in the peace process. The PLO's position is most clear and transparent; it rejects anyone dictating conditions to the PLO or interferring in Palestinian domestic affairs.

Perhaps President Bush, with the logic of the heads of the superpowers, will not accept such a clear position concerning national sovereignty and independent decisionmaking on the part of such little people, part of whom are under occupation and the rest of whom are in a diaspora worldwide. And perhaps he is thinking about dispatching some units of the U.S. Sixth Fleet to the Palestinian coast and some units of the U.S. rapid deployment force to suppress the intifadah if the Israeli forces prove to be incapable of assuming this task which is required to satisfy U.S. dignity. This dignity is greatly offended when the conditions of the U.S. President, which interfere in Palestinian domestic affairs, meet with a no on the part of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PLO is eager to see a resumption of dialogue in such a way that will not encroach on the independence of Palestinian national decisionmaking, and on this occasion it affirms that the decision of the U.S. Administration to freeze the dialogue has proved to be a factor of encouragement to Israel to contemplate the possibility of aggression and expansionism. The decision has also been to Israel new momentum to escalate its terrorist repression to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

The PLO knows that its rejection of the U.S. conditions will certainly not please the U.S. Administration, and perhaps the U.S. response to this rejection will be indirect, through Israel, through an escalation of the acts of repression and terror against the Palestinian people. But, while being aware of the responsibility of the U.S. Administration over every drop of Palestinian blood that will further be spilled and over every moan and pain caused by the escalation of repression, the PLO affirms to the U.S. Administration that this will only increase the determination of the Palestinian people to continue the struggle in defense of the independence of its national decisionmaking as an efficient means of struggle for national independence. [passage omitted]

In this respect, the Palestinian people remind the Arab brothers that the ink on the decisions of the Baghdad summit is not yet dry. Have they quickly assumed their responsibilities in examining how to carry out these decisions in a way that will prevent the occupiers from continuing their crimes and will stop the U.S. hand from further extending assistance to the occupiers?

Hurani on Soviet Delegation, Tunis Meeting

JN1807173490 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[By Muhammad al-Qabisi from Tunis]

[Text] 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Cultural Department, has said that very positive developments are currently taking shape in Palestinian-Soviet ties.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QABAS, Hurani added that a Palestinian delegation comprising Abu-Mazin

[Mahmud 'Abbas] and Sulayman al-Najjab will leave for Moscow today to attend meetings of the joint Palestinian-Soviet committee.

Hurani went on to say that the PLO Executive Committee is currently meeting in Tunis to consider the current Palestinian moves. He said that the PLO, within the framework of its current moves on the international scene, is seeking to intensify its contacts with Soviet institutions in a bid to alleviate the effect of the dangers posed by [Jewish] immigration. He added: Within this context, the PLO is currently receiving a Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Tanatonov Valentini [name as published], who is currently visiting Tunis.

Hurani said that the PLO requires the [Soviet] parliament to help endorse bills for the return of Soviet Jews who want to return to the USSR, for issuing passports rather than travel documents to immigrants, and on any other positive legislation in this regard.

In response to a question by AL-QABAS on his assessment of the work and resolutions of the recent emergency session of the Arab League Council in Tunis, Hurani said that for joint Arab action to succeed, it needs conviction on the part of those involved with it. Those involved with joint Arab action must have faith in the need to make efforts and moves on the international scene, Hurani added.

Hurani said: "The Arabs will be shackled when dragged to paradise." He added: The resolutions of the Arab League Council are good. However, they must be implemented. An important thing remains to be said. That is, the Arabs still need to be convinced of the seriousness of the dangers posed by Israeli threats and Jewish immigration. When they are convinced, their efforts and perspective will be more serious.

In a related development, 'Adnan 'Umran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has said that the meeting between an Arab League delegation and the Soviet parliamentary delegation was very important.

In exclusive statement, to AL-QABAS, 'Umran added that the Arab side presented the Soviets with a complete, frank, and accurate picture of the Arab position on Jewish immigration, stressing the need for the USSR to reconsider the issue drastically.

'Umran pointed out that the Arab League asked the Soviet delegation to enable immigrants to choose their destination so that the number of those allowed to exit conforms to the number of visas granted to immigrants by foreign states.

Moreover, the Arab League asked for an urgent Arab-Soviet meeting to discuss the details of emigration to Palestine. The League delegation warned of the grave dangers posed to Arab-Soviet ties if immigration proceeds in the current manner. The delegation repeated that the main U.S. objective behind securing the expansion and continuation of immigration is to harm Soviet-Arab ties.

The Arab League assistant secretary general spoke of the great understanding expressed by the Soviet delegation of these concerns. He added that the Arab League delegation received frank promises from the Soviet delegation in this regard.

In reply to a question addressed by AL-QABAS on the EC troika meeting Wednesday [25 July] with an Arab League delegation, 'Umran said that the Arab side is ready to receive the EC delegation. He added that the talks will deal with the developments of the Palestine question and the intifadah, and with the escalation of Israeli repression and terrorism against the Palestinian people. He went on to say that the Arab side will inform the EC troika delegation of the Arab position as spelled out in the Baghdad summit resolutions.

'Umran said that the talks will also deal with continued European-Arab ties in the wake of the successful meetings in Paris and Dublin.

In addition, 'Adnan 'Umran told AL-QABAS that the Arab foreign and economy ministers will meet in September to adopt practical measures on the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions as well as the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Arab League Council for an Arab economic boycott. The ministers will also consider the possible, decisive, and collective punitive measures against the institutions and bodies that provide facilities for Jewish immigration, 'Umran added.

Abu-Hijlah Meets UK Foreign Ministry Official

JN1807174690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], general director of the PLO Political Department, met with Mr. (Simon Keller), head of the Near East Department at the British Foreign Ministry, and British Ambassador in Tunis Alexander John Dickson Stirling at the headquarters of the [PLO Political] Department.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest international, Arab, and Palestinian political developments and the latest developments in the situation inside our occupied land in light of the Israeli escalation against our people's heroic intifadah.

They also discussed the results of PLO contacts with EEC countries to push peace efforts in the Middle East forward on the basis of the Palestinian peace initiative, which in turn is based on UN resolutions on peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat Postpones 21 Jul Fatah Meetings

JN1907091890 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Jul 90 p 16

[Text] Amman—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has decided to postpone until further notice Fatah Central Committee and Fatah Revolutionary Council meetings that were scheduled to begin on Saturday. An informed Palestinian source told AL-BAYAN that this decision was taken in the light of 'Arafat's movement plans and his engagement in important issues, particularly after the positive results of the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting.

Diplomatic Palestinian sources said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, will arrive in Moscow tomorrow, Wednesday, for comprehensive political talks with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials on Jewish emigration, the Israeli Government, and the severance of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. The sources said the talks fall within the framework of bilateral consultations held by the Palestinian-Soviet joint political committee.

In another development, AL-BAYAN has learned that some Palestinian personalities in the occupied territory began contacts with the leaders of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] in a bid to heal the rift between this movement and the Palestinian leadership. The sources told AL-BAYAN that Hamas is now inclined to accept reconciliaiton after its cadres had demanded that the leadership achieve national unity and threatened to break away from the movement if the split between the national Palestinian forces continued.

A Palestinian official told AL-BAYAN that the PLO leadership was serious in its stance toward Hamas, especially after the secrets of a plan to split Palestinian ranks was disclosed. The official warned against any departure from the PLO's frameworks, aims, and strategy. He said the PLO will not be lenient toward any threat to national unity.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO's Information Department, arrived in Jordan yesterday on a visit of several days for talks on information cooperation and support for the intifadah. It was also decided to postpone a scheduled visit to Amman by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani. He was scheduled to arrive in Amman today.

DFLP Parties Fail To Reach Agreement

JN1907074690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 19

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—A Palestinain source has said the two conflicting parties within the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have not reached any agreement to reunite their ranks despite their contacts and meetings. The two parties' attitude toward the PLO's political program ranges between radicalism and moderation. The first is represented by Nayif Hawatimah, the front's secretary general, while the second is represented by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, DFLP assistant secretary general and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Algeria

'Nation's Movement Party Receives Recognition

LD1907003190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The Nation's Movement [Harakatu al-'Ummah], which submitted its approval file on 21 May, today secured legitimacy from the Ministry of Interior. This party was founded by Messrs. Benyoucef Benkheda, Abderrahmane Kiouane, and Bencheikh Abdelhakim in accordance with the law on associations, with political character encompassed in the Constitution of 23 February 1989. With this political grouping, the number of parties presently recognized in Algeria reaches 24.

Liberation Front Adopts Restructuring Measures

LD1807160690 Algiers APS in Arabic 1520 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 July (APS)—The APS has learned from authorized sources at the FLN [National Liberation Front] General Secretariat that the front has adopted some measures in the framework of the restructuring process that include:

(1) The abolition of the coordination areas which were set up after the FLN's 6th Congress as [word indistinct] structures for activation and coordination, and to replace them by a flexible and mobile system for activation and control.

(2) Move toward organizing the party's newspapers and printing houses, with the exception of the central organ, in the form of companies in which the workers and strugglers will hold shares.

(3) To refer the main aspects of the party's restructuring [program] to the struggler grassroots with a view to have them explained and clarified so that a complete picture of the multifaceted process will emerge.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Denounces New Israeli Settlement

NC1707165790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has commented on Israel's decision to build a new settlement in the West Bank by saying: Egypt denounces the building of settlements in the Arab occupied territories and considers it an obstacle to peace and an unacceptable matter. The move is a provocative action and should be stopped.

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid commented on the EC's decision to send a three-member committee to the Middle East by saying that Egypt views the move as a positive contribution by the EC countries. Egpyt, he added, approves of the role that the EC plays.

Confers With UK Ambassador

NC1707155790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred today with James Adams, UK ambassador to Cairo. The two officials discussed developments in the Middle East as well as the outcome of the Alexandria summit meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. They also revicwed international economic issues in light of the recent meeting of the major industrial nations and its outcome in terms of Third World aspirations.

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid received Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian ambassador to Cairo, and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, USSR ambassador to Cairo, in separate farewell meetings as the two envoys have ended their term in Cairo and will return to their respective countries.

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Envoy, Message

NC1807183890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1816 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—This evening President Husni Mubarak received Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, who handed President Mubarak a message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Relations With Sudan Described as 'Very Tepid'

JN1707152090 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Jul 90 p 16

[Text] Cairo—An official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry affirmed to AL-BAYAN yesterday that political relations between Egypt and Sudan are now very tepid because of the Egyptian Government's protests against some practices of the Sudanese Government, particularly with regard to the recent execution of army officers and the Sudanese Government's nonresponse to Egyptian mediation efforts with John Garang, leader of the rebels in southern Sudan.

The source said that the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo could not set appointments for senior Egyptian officials to meet with Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, who was scheduled to visit Cairo after 'Id al-Adha leading an official delegation. The source noted that Egypt asked that the visit be postponed.

In another development, an Egyptian security official accused Sudan of sheltering members of the banned Jihad organization and providing them with arms training in the camps of the Islamic Front in Sudan—including Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the leader of

the organization, who left Khartoum for Pakistan recently to meet Afghan mujahidin leaders.

The Egyptian security official noted that Egypt did not dispatch any delegation to participate in the celebrations of the first anniversary of the national salvation revolution held in Khartoum two weeks ago.

Health Minister Views Cooperation With Libya

NC1707170390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Egypt will export $5.5 million worth of pharmaceuticals to the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah. This has been decided at a meeting between Egyptian Health Minister Dr. Raghib Duwaydar and Dr. Mustafa al-Zaydi, secretary of the People's General Committee for Health in the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by delegations from both sides.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the implementation of the Egyptian-Libyan cooperation agreement, signed last November, particularly in the field of medical drugs and the treatment of Libyan citizens in Egyptian hospitals.

Dr. Duwaydar stressed the need for increased cooperation in pharmaceutical production and in exporting medical drugs to Libya. So far, Egypt has exported $1.5 million worth of drugs to Libya.

Dr. Duwaydar said that Egypt is manufacturing the vaccines and serums that Libya needs at the laboratories of the Egyptian General Organization for Serums and Vaccines.

Concerning manpower exchanges, Dr. Duwaydar noted that Egypt has loaned 1,436 doctors, nurses, and medical support staff to Libya. Duwaydar noted that Egypt places all its medical abilities at the disposal of Libyan citizens who seek treatment in Egypt's public or private hospitals. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that al-Zaydi arrived in Cairo with an accompanying delegation yesterday on a three-day visit, during which he will visit a number of pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and health centers.

Swazi Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

NC1807075990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0626 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Swazi Foreign Minister George Mamba left Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a five-day official visit.

While in Egypt, he held talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on important international and African issues of common interest and bilateral relations.

During the visit, two agreements were signed on cooperation between the two countries in the fields of exchanging technical expertise and air transport. Under these agreements, Egypt will provide expertise and assistance to contribute to the development process in Swaziland.

Further Commentaries on Mubarak-Al-Asad Meeting

Commentary Hails Mubarak's Efforts

NC1807140990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "The Dimensions of the Egyptian-Syrian Summit"]

[Text] The visit President Hafiz al-Asad paid to Cairo [as heard] for the first time in 13 years means that President Husni Mubarak has made a great stride toward his goal of formulating a joint Arab policy based on peace and aimed at consolidating the peace process in the Middle East. The achievement of peace in the Middle East requires the formulation of a unified Arab strategy. President Mubarak has always called for the formulation of such a strategy.

Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak discussed the various economic and social aspects of their bilateral. The two leaders also discussed ways to coordinate their countries' policies in light of the current international economic alliances and the shifting international scene, particularly with respect to the changes in East Europe, West Europe's sympathy with these changes, and the abolishment of doctrinal divisions in Europe, for all of these matters will reflect on the Arab countries.

The second topic of the Mubarak-al-Asad talks was relations between Syria and Iraq and the definite need to end the differences between the two countries. There are certainly signs that a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq is possible. The Mubarak-al-Asad talks give the impression that such a reconciliation is possible. President al-Asad said that the problem with Iraq is known and clear. Al-Asad said that, regardless of how long this may take, Syria and Iraq will reach an agreement.

Foreign news agencies have regarded this clear reconciliatory tone as a success for President Mubarak's efforts. President Mubarak visited President al-Asad in Damascus last May and tried to narrow the differences between Iraq and Syria.

It was announced during President al-Asad's visit to Alexandria that both al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will attend the coming Arab summit in Cairo next November. We recall that President Saddam Husayn had said that he will not hesitate to strike at any aggressor who attacks any Arab country, without exception.

As for the third topic in the Mubarak-al-Asad talks, namely the position on the PLO, President al-Asad himself spelled out the Syrian position in his remarks to journalists. He said: There are no disputes with the PLO,

merely differences of views concerning the way to establish peace in the Middle East. Syrian-PLO relations are quite significant in terms of the peace talks and the means to accelerate the peace efforts.

We believe that the Arab position regarding the peace talks hardly needs explanation or clarification. As for the Israeli position, it is still at a standstill despite all international efforts, despite all the talk about U.S. endeavors, and despite international resolutions and UN conventions.

Therefore, in regards to the fate of the peace talks, President Mubarak has said: We are waiting for the outcome of the talks between the United States and Israel. These talks have been stumbling since the collapse of the expanded coalition government in Israel.

A measure of Arab unity has emerged, thanks to Egypt's numerous exchanges, the most recent of which was the Mubarak-al-Asad meeting. The EC has also formed a three-member committee to hold consultations with the parties concerned with the Middle East problem and to urge these parties to help accelerate the peace process. It is hoped such developments will underpin the U.S. efforts to dissuade Israel from placing obstacles on the road to peace. Israel will be the first to lose from such obstacles. There will be no repeat of what happened during the 1940's and 1950's, regardless how hard Israel may try.

Commentary Sees 'Wider Implications'

NC1707163090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Egyptian-Syrian Encounter Is a True Boost to Joint Arab Work"]

[Text] Following three days of intensive talks in Alexandria, both on summit level and on the level of ministers, experts, and advisers, the official visit of President Hafiz al-Asad to the Arab Republic of Egypt ended yesterday. During the visit, al-Asad met with his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak amid a warm, popular welcome for Egypt's great guest. The warm welcome assured the whole world of the strength and durability of the long-standing historic ties between the two brotherly countries and their peoples.

If we were to assess the recent Mubarak-al-Asad meeting in a nutshell, we would say that the meeting was, by all standards, a genuine contribution to joint Arab action, whose positive results will be felt in the near future.

It is true that the talks ended in a joint statement stressing the eagerness of both countries to boost the march of Arab work and to consolidate bilateral relations in all domains. The statement also stressed the need for the two presidents to meet on a regular basis in order to hold consultations on political issues of common concern and to follow up the work of the joint ministerial committees.

It is also true that the contents of the Syrian-Egyptian statement are an achievement and proof of the success of the talks between the two Arab leaders. However, we believe that between the lines more and wider implications can be read than those which the contents of the joint statement issued suggest. This is particularly true with regard to the Lebanese problem, the intricate Palestinian issue, the Middle East peace efforts, the clearing of the Arab atmosphere, and the safeguarding of Arab national security.

As for the Lebanese crisis, we expect considerable relaxation to take place after the Alexandria meeting. This development will be felt particularly once the air is cleared between Damascus and Baghdad and between Baghdad and Tehran, for all these parties are concerned with the Lebanese problem.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, the settlement of differences between the PLO and Syria will boost the stature of the PLO and its long-standing efforts in the international scene to confront Israel with the challenge of just peace.

As for the peace efforts exerted on the international scene for a long time, we should not forget the Syrian role in this process. Syria is a major player with considerable weight. Its land in the Golan has been under occupation since 1967. Therefore, Syria should take an active role in the restoration of legitimate rights.

Regarding the clearing of the Arab atmosphere, the Alexandria summit has once and for all blocked the way for any attempt to divide the Arabs. The summit proved to the whole world that the Arabs have learned the lessons of the past and have begun to deal with the new international developments in a realistic and logical way and away from emotions and useless slogans. The Arabs seek to safeguard their collective national security and their strategic position on the world map.

In the light of the foregone analysis, we believe that Mubarak-al-Asad meeting marks a new era in contemporary Arab history. This is particularly true because both Egypt and Syria have political leverage and an effective role in the region. Furthermore, the closer ties that will be established between the two brotherly peoples through joint cooperation in all fields will bring new vitality to Arab cooperation.

Abu-Talib on Need for 'Strong' Armed Forces

JN1707153190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Jul 90 p 6

[Excerpt] Alexandria—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has stated that the meeting of President Husni Mubarak and President Hafiz al-Asad is a meeting of the partners of the Arab nation's victory and a meeting of the brothers in the land of power and dignity.

During a graduation ceremony for students of the air defense college in Abi Qir, Gen. Abu-Talib said: Amid all the international changes, we will not forget the hard truth that we must build strong armed forces—not to commit aggression, but to defend the homeland and protect our relations and interests.

Abu-Talib added that peace always needs force to protect it, pointing to the difficult equation of the current challenges, the requirements of development, and need for building strong armed forces and a just peace.

He then asserted that Egypt will not enter into an arms race that would exhaust development revenues. He said: However, we will choose whatever we need in harmony with our armament policy, and we also make the most of our needs for weapons. He said the people and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces are eager to provide the men with what they need to enable them to carry out their sacred duty. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Murder Police Informer in Asyut

NC1907050490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2149 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Asyut, 18 Jul (MENA)—Unidentified extremists in Dayrut, Asyut Governorate, this evening stabbed to death Farghali Talabah, a secret informer of the Asyut security forces.

The security forces seized a pickup truck used by the culprits in their ugly crime. They also arrested one of the culprits, Sabir Qutb Jad al-Karim, who is known for his extremist activities and his membership in extremist groups. The other culprits escaped.

Major General Mahmud al-Fakhrani, director of the Asyut security department, has affirmed that the criminal investigation services are continuing their efforts to capture the culprits as soon as possible and bring them to justice. He said that the security forces are currently combing the area where the incident took place and where the culprits may have hidden after committing their crime. Maj. Gen. al-Fakhrani affirmed that the security situation in the Dayrut area is completely calm and the security forces are in control of the situation. [passage omitted]

Second Stage of Air Control Program Begins

NC1707160090 Cairo MENA in English 1431 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 17 (MENA)—The Civil Aviation Organisation [CAO] has started, in collaboration with France, implementing the second stage of the air control development programme in Egypt.

This stage, said Na'im 'Abdu, vice chairman of the organisation, costs ff [French francs] 300 million, to be advanced by France as a loan to CAO, plus eight million Egyptian pounds. It is to be completed in 1992, he added.

It involves the establishment of three radar control stations in each of al-Ghardaqah, Mersa Matruh and Aswan. Also a satellite station is to be set up in the air naviation centre with three wirless communication centers. A radar station in Asyut will be developed within the said stage, he said.

Public Sector To Set Prices for 26 Commodities

JN1407074190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 90 pp 1, 3

[By Hani Salih]

[Text] As part of the government's plan to free the public sector, Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab has decided to loosen up the pricing of 26 industrial commodities. Prices can now be set without referring to the Ministry of Industry. The decision was announced during a meeting of the higher consultative committee for industry chaired by the minister.

A responsible source at the Ministry said the minister discussed with heads of departments the establishment of holding companies in the industrial sector and the amendment of the public sector law with a view to bringing it closer to the shareholding companies law and giving management a free hand in decisionmaking and performance evaluation.

The source said the freed commodities include fabrics, jute, jute fiber, absorbent cotton, canned food, frozen fish, yeast, glucose, starch, sodium carbonate, sulphuric acid, welding rods, dyed leather, detergents, dry and liquid-cell batteries, motorcycles, half trailers, pickup trucks, boilers, fans, butane-gas cookers, ceramic tiles, glass products, thermal products, and passenger train wagons.

The commodities also include the second and the third of the five groups that the government intends to free gradually so that the decision on the price can be made at the production unit. The other two groups include essential commodities such as sugar and soap.

Banker Details Public Sector Profits, Losses

NC1807183590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Investment outlays by the public sector companies totaled 3,407,400,000 Egyptian pounds in fiscal year 1988-89. The corresponding figure for the period 1980-81 to 1987-88 was over 30 billion pounds. This was told to MENA by Dr. Husni Hafiz, first deputy chairman of the National Investment Bank.

Dr. Hafiz noted that the number of economic units working in the agriculture, irrigation, and land reclamation sector was 35 companies. Of these, 26 companies posted losses of 130.6 million pounds. Nine companies

reported profits of 50.8 million pounds. This puts the total net loss in companies working in this field at 79.8 million pounds.

Dr. Hafiz added that the number of economic units working in the transport and communications sector was 38 companies. Of these, 21 companies posted losses of 77.5 million pounds, while 17 companies reported a profit of 67.5 million. This means that the net losses in this sector was 10 million. Most of the profits were reported by companies working in the northern part of the country.

As for the supply and internal trade sector, Dr. Hafiz mentioned that of the 43 companies in that field, 16 have reported losses of 75.6 million pounds; the remaining 27 companies reported profits of 153.5 million, which puts the net profits of this sector at a total of 77.9 million.

Dr. Hafiz noted that in the field of foreign trade only one company showed losses totaling 1.9 million pounds, while 12 showed profits of 137.7 million. The net profits totaled 134.8 million in this sector which deals exclusively with exports and imports.

As for the 12 companies working in the field of cotton, nine have shown losses totaling 13 million pounds and three showed losses totaling 5.9 million, which means a total net loss of 7.1 million.

Dr. Hafiz said that losses in the housing sector were significant. The total loss was 407.1 million in that sector. Twelve companies registered a surplus totaling 15.4 million. The total net loss was 391.7 million.

Out of the 11 companies working in the pharmaceuticals sector, seven have registered a loss totaling 37.3 million, while four showed profits totaling 12.6 million. The total net loss was 24.7 million.

In tourism, five companies registered losses totaling 1.1 million, while three showed profits totaling five million pounds.

As for the economic units operating in the field of culture, one company showed a loss of 1.1 million pounds and two others showed a profit totaling 4.8 million. The net profit was 3.7 million in this field.

The one company working in the information domain registered losses of 1.8 million a year.

Dr. Husni Hafiz said that of the 31 companies working in the textiles and ready-made clothes activities, 18 posted losses totaling 127.8 million pounds, while 13 showed 124 million in profits, which brings the net loss to 3.8 million.

In the food industry, six companies showed losses totaling 68.2 million, while 13 showed 292.2 millions in profits, which means that the total profit in this activity was 224 million pounds.

In production of chemicals, nine companies posted losses totaling 146.3 million pounds, while the losses in the remaining 18 companies totaled 71.1 million. The total loss was 75.2 million pounds.

Of the 19 companies operating in the engineering industries, 14 showed losses of 82.1 million while the profit generated in the remaining five companies totaled 66.2 million.

In metallurgy, losses totaling 126.1 million pounds were posted by five companies, while the other four companies active in this domain registered profits of 244.1 million. The net profit was 118 million.

As for the oil sector, of the 12 companies operating in this field, two posted losses totaling 33.3 million pounds, while 10 showed profits of 138 million. The net profit was approximately 104.7 million.

Dr. Hafiz pointed out that of the 12 companies operating in the electricity sector, 10 showed losses totaling 70.9, while two showed profits of 5.5 million. The net loss was 65.4 million in that activity.

Of the 18 companies working in military production, 13 posted losses totaling 78.9 million, while five made profits totaling 16.8 million. The net loss in that sector was 62.1 million.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syrian Vice President

LD1807015490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Yesterday [17 July] evening the Brother Leader of the Revolution recieved 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the fraternal Republic of Syria, who conveyed to the Brother Leader a message from President Hafiz al-Asad in which the latter informed him of the results of Alexandria meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message also covered the Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, and the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation attended the meeting.

Brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of fraternal Syria, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

African Oil Producers Association Holds Meeting

Egyptian Oil Minister Arrives

LD1607205690 Tripoli JANA in English 1707 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, July 16, Jamahiriyah News Agency—'Abd al-Hadi Muhammad Qandil the minister of petroleum and mineral resources in the Arab Republic of Egypt and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening to take part in the sessions of the 7th. ordinary round of the ministerial council of the African oil league to be convened in Great Jamahiriya.

Oil Secretary Addresses Session

LD1707214190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the 7th ordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the African Petroleum Producers Association started in Tripoli this evening. The brother secretary of the People's Committee for Oil delivered a speech at the beginning in which he welcomed the brother African ministers of oil and mines and the members of the delegations participating in the proceedings of this session. [passage omitted]

After a review of the agenda, which was approved unanimously by the secretary of the People's Committee for Oil in his capacity as chairman of the session, the conferees started to discuss it [the agenda] and the floor was given to the ministers of oil and mines of Algeria, Egypt, Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Benin, and Nigeria, who agreed on the necessity to strengthen cooperation and unify the marketing policy between the member states of the league.

Jallud Addresses Session

LD1707134490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning attended the opening session of the seventh ordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the African Petroleum Producers Association.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a speech in which he welcomed the participants in the seventh ordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the African Petroleum Producers Association. He expressed hope that this conference will achieve positive results.

He said that the Great al-Fatah Revolution is continuously working for the establishment of an African Bloc of oil producing countries in cooperation with the African countries which are exerting enthusiastic efforts for this continent. We have reached a coordinated consultative formula. He stressed that we aspire to develop and push this formula in order to transform it into a truly African organization of the oil producing countries, because this is the only way to defend the intersts of the African peoples and to confirm their independence from colonialist hegemony in implementaion of the slogan: No alliance for Africa apart from that with itself.

Further on Jallud's Address

LD1707163790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud stressed that all the peoples of the world are aware that the prosperity of the West, through depleting their riches and plundering their wealth, is at their expense. [passage omitted].

When he attended the opening of the seventh session today in Tripoli, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud called upon the members of the African Petroleum Producers Association to work [word indistinct] so that the countries which export raw materials and energy impose themselves, determine the prices of their own products, and do not yield to the policy of demand and supply designed by monopolistic companies and Western capitalist countries.

He stressed that these countries must determine the prices of their products and raw materials for the benefit and the interest of their peoples. [passage omitted]

Staff Major Jallud further said that Africa is still virgin, but its destiny is the hands of the West. We were officially told that it [Africa] would be Europe's share, because Europe owns neither energies nor raw materials, and Central and Latin America is the backyard of America while Asia remains under the mercy of China and Japan. He called for joint action to foil all the imperialist schemes through the continuation of the struggle to preserve the interests and the wealth of peoples and to break the greed of the monopolistic capitalist companies.

He [Jallud) said that because of the good quality of African oil the league's countries could play an important role and contribute effectively in stabilizing the world petroleum market, especially in the light of the new developments in the world. North Sea oil has started to run out which would give African oil greater importance in the years to come.

Major Jallud said that on the basis of all that, the Great Jamahiriyah calls for the development of the African Petroleum Producers Association to become more harmonious and united, and for the organization to move from the role of consultative coordination to one of political decision to serve the interests of its peoples and to control production and prices. He pointed out that if the association became a reality it would impose a new situation on OPEC in the sphere of production and prices and would influence world petroleum policies. [passage omitted]

Major Jallud concluded by saying: I would like to call for this coordinating association to become a true African organization. He pointed out that there is no need to be

afraid, because together and with our united efforts we can constitute an effective and influential force to defend [word indistinct] and our rights. We cannot see any reason for this association to remain just a consultative and coordinating body. This is what the United States and the West want so that they can continue to suck our blood, because their prosperity and progress are based on swallowing up our resources.

Oil ministers of the association's member-countries—Algeria, Egypt, Angola, Benin, Nigeria, Zaire, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Ivory Coast, and the Great Jamahiriyah—are participating in the session, in addition to many technicians and experts in petroleum affairs from these countries. The opening session was attended by a number of heads of diplomatic mission accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and by presidents and directors of oil companies in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Association Issues Communique

LD1807191790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jul (JANA)—The Ministerial Council of the African Petroleum Producers Association has issued a communique at the conclusion of its meetings held in Tripoli on 17 and 18 of July in which it has reviewed the situation in the world oil market, characterized by a severe deterioration in prices coupled with negative effects on the revenues of all the oil-exporting countries, especially since the second quarter of this year.

The Council noted with great interest all the recent measures taken by OPEC to correct this grave situation and raise prices to a higher average than the prices currently prevailing in the market.

In this respect, the Ministerial Council of African Petroleum Producers Association reiterated its firm emphasis that stability in the oil market benefits all the producing countries, and stressed its full support for OPEC's current efforts in this respect.

The Council emphasized that permanent stability in the oil market can be ensured only through genuine cooperation between all the producing states.

In its communique, the council urged all the oil producing countries to take tangible steps to bring prices back to levels that will accord better with the requirements of the economic growth of their respective countries.

'Unionist' Accord Signed With Sudan

LD1407185790 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 14 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Nasir [Juy] 14, JAMAHIRIYHA NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the 1st session of the meeting of the General People's Committee and the Sudanese Council of Ministers were signed in Khartoum.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee and General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the vice president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council and deputy prime minister, in the presence of General 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council.

Also the signing ceremony was attended by the members of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, members of the Congress of [words indistinct] which consists of members of people's committees and delegates of Sudanese trade unions and associations.

General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih made a speech after the signing of the minutes lauding the unionist steps between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

He [words indistinct] the sincere efforts being [word indistinct] by the leader of the revolution towards the realisation of Arab unity so as to be able to confront all challenges and imperialist and Zionist plots to which it has been subjected throughout its history.

He concluded his speech by saying "the complementary steps between the two countries do not [word indistinct] the aspirations of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan for unity and we must, therefore, endeavour to realise these aspiraitons by realising unity between the two countries".

The minutes said "in entrenchment of the objectives of the declaration of complementarity between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan, in crystalisation of their economic, social, cultural, educational and agricultural resources along the path of contribution towards the construction of the humane and civilisational role of the Arab nation and promotion of the role of the Arab national in building up his society, in implementation of the instruction of the brother leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great al-Fatah Revolution, and General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, the meetings of the 1st session of the Higher Arab Libyan Sudanese Mixed Commission were held on 11-13 July 1990 in Khartoum and the following accord was signed":

In the field of complementarity to begin the completion of building up the institutions and structures of complementarity before the forthcoming Al-Fatah/September. [sentence as received]

To lay down popular and official programs in the economic, social, cultural, educational, agricultural and financial fields as well as in transport and communications.

To determine the priorities of complementarity in the fields of finance, agriculture, transport, communications, trade and energy.

To work for the unification of popular and masses institutions and vocational and trade union congresses.

Also it was agreed in the minutes to give priority to importing local products of the two countries, lifting

customs tariffs on local goods in accordance with the Arab League's standard, facilitating administrative measures and the meeting of the chambers of commerce in a regular manner.

In the field of agriculture, it has been agreed that the two countries will coordinate in the [word indistinct] of production [word indistinct] provision of means to promote production.

Great Jamahiriyah will provide Sudan with a loan in the form of tractors, pumps, iron pipes, cement, and Libyan produced fertilisers, and that the loan shall be paid back in the form of Sudanese agricultural products including wheat, fodder and corn, freedom of movement of agricultural goods and the abolition of customs and administrative restrictions on agricultural stimulation and intensification of cooperation in the goods [words indistinct] consolidation of cooperation in the field of the use of agricultural aircraft to combat insects, and to study the establishment of a joint company.

[Passage indistinct] It has been agreed that a delegation from Great Jamahiriyah is to visit Sudan to lay down the execution programmes.

In the sphere of oil, it was agreed [word indistinct] the previous accord is to be renewed at 100 thousand tons of crude oil a month as from August 1990 and ends in July 1991.

The higher mixed commission decided, in its meeting of the 1st session, that travel of the citizens within the two countries with identity cards and urged the appropriate authorities to prepare and issue a unified identity card [word indistinct] also agreed in the field of culture and information on the following:

—strengthening broadcasts between the two countries.
—setting up a joint publishing and printing house.
—cooperation in the field of radio and television.
—training.
—exchange of publications.
—exchange of technical groups.
—cooperation in the field of spreading Arab-Islamic culture in Africa.
—cooperation in the field of cultural centres.
—cooperation and coordination between the news agencies of the two countries.
—cooperation in antiquities and museums. [passage omitted]

'Minutes' on Cooperation With Malta Signed

LD1407104190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Jul 90

[Text] Valetta, 14 Jul (JANA)—The minutes of the 10th session of the joint Libyan Arab-Maltese Cooperation Committee were signed in the Maltese capital, Valetta, yesterday evening [13 July] by the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Strategic Industries and the Maltese minister of economic affairs.

The minutes provide for strengthening and improving the relations of friendship and cooperation that exist between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta in various fields.

The secretary of the People's Committee for Strategic Industries and the Maltese minister of economic affairs expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved in the interest of the Libyan Arab and Maltese friendly peoples. They also hailed the deep-rooted historical relations linking the two countries.

Mauritania

Taya Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Emissary, Message

AB1807105690 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] The head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, early this afternoon, received Mr. (Muhammad Abdu al-Kasem Juhir), special emissary of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution. Mr. Ahmadou Abdelkader, a presidential adviser, was present at the meeting.

The Libyan envoy later stated that he presented the head of state with a message from his Libyan counterpart on bilateral relations and other matters of common interest, adding that his visit, which is in line with frequent consultations among heads of states belonging to the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], comes a few days before the UMA summit slated for 21 July in Algiers. Concluding, the Libyan envoy said that [words indistinct] understanding as usual on the questions discussed with the head of state. It will be recalled that the Libyan envoy arrived in Nouakchott this morning.

Emissary Leaves Nouakchott

AB1807195090 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] (Muhammad Abdu al-Kasem Juhir), a special emissary from the Guide of the Libyan Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, left Nouakchott this morning. The Libyan special emissary yesterday delivered a message from Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN]. Mr. (Muhammad Abdu al-Kasem Juhir) was seen off upon departure by Ahmed Guinod, an official in charge of special duties at the Presidency of the CMSN.

Debt Write-Off Agreement Signed With France

AB1807105090 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Summary] This afternoon, France and Mauritania signed an agreement under which France will write off five billion ouguiyas, that is 340 million CFA francs off

Mauritania's debt. The agreement was signed for Mauritania by the minister of finance and for France by the director of the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation in Nouakchott.

Morocco

Laraki Receives PRC Personnel Minister

LD1607213890 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki received this morning at his office Mr. Zhao Dongwan, the Chinese minister of personnel, who is currently visiting Morocco.

The prime minister and his guest emphasized the excellent level of Sino-Moroccan relations, which are characterized by traditional friendship and mutual respect. They also reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

This audience was attended by Mr. Abederrahim Ben Abdeljali, minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of administrative affairs, China's ambassador in Rabat, and close aides of the prime minister.

Italian Foreign Minister Arives in Rabat

LD1807154290 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, July 18 (MAP)--Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis arrived Tuesday in Rabat on an official visit to Morocco at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali.

In an arrival statement, de Michelis said his visit offers a 'good opportunity' to examine 'not only relations between Italy and Morocco but between Morocco and the European Community as well'.

De Michelis, who is also acting chairman of the European Community's Ministers Council, said Italy endeavours to reinforce its relations with Morocco 'in the context of its relations with the Arab world and Mediterranean countries'. But, he added, Italy is also keen on promoting relations between Morocco and the EEC on the one hand and between the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and the EEC on the other. He called to mind that the first EEC Ministers' Council under Itlaian chairmanship, last Monday [16 July] in Brussels, had examined [word indistinct] Mediterranean and EEC-UMA relations.

Since July First, Italy is EEC's acting chairman. De Michelis said his bilateral talks with Moroccan officials here will mainly focus on economic and political cooperation.

UAE President Ends Official Visit to Morocco

LD1807161290 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, July 18 (MAP)—At the end of his official visit to Morocco Tuesday [17 July], President of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Tuesday addressed a message of thanks to King Hassan II of Morocco for the warm welcome he had received in Morocco. Shaykh Zayid also expressed satisfaction at the positive results of his visit, underlining the identity of Moroccan-UAE views over issues of common interest.

Shaykh Zayid had started his official visit to Morocco on Saturday. His talks with King Hassan II focused on Arab issues and on the consolidation of bilateral relations.

'UAE'S major concern' he had affirmed upon arrival, 'is to multiply contacts among brothers towards dialogue and coordination, and to examine the situation at the Arab, regional and international levels'.

On Tuesday, Shaykh Zayid started a private visit to the kingdom.

Human Rights Council Issues Report

LD1807171590 Rabat MAP in English 1333 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, July 18 (MAP)—The Moroccan Consultative Council of Human Rights addressed King Hassan II of Morocco a report circulated here Tuesday and announcing the setting up of working groups entrusted with considering the situation of human rights in Morocco. Here follows the full text of the report:

Your Majesty,

The members of the consultative Council for Human Rights are honoured to inform his majesty the king that the Council held its first session on Du-al-Hijja 5, 6, 13 and 19, 1410 (June 28 and 29 and July 6 and 12, 1990) as stipulated by Article 5 of the Dahir No- 1.90.12 of Ramadan 24, 1410 (April 20, 1990) pertaining to the Consultative Council for Human Rights.

In conformity with your majesty's high directives to submit the dossier of Amnesty International to the council for serious and diligent consideration, the members have exhaustively examined it.

The members of the council are proud that this blessed country be:

—A constitutional, democratic and social monarchy with his majesty, Amir al Mouminine, defender of the religion, seeing to the respect of law, guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of the citizens, of groups and of institutions, deeply attached to his religious and constitutional duty which consists in the defense of the Moroccan society against all breach of the rights of its members and its sacred values.

—A state of law, since it is the highest expression of the nation's will, everybody should obey it and all Moroccans are equal before it. Pluralism, dialogue, tolerance and the separation of powers are its noble qualities and its clearsighted approach.

—attached to human rights whose principles draw inspiration from different sources, the most important being Islam, eternal divine message, the secular

Moroccan civilization, human aspirations in the framework of the norms of international conventions and charters. The Constitution guarantees to all citizens the freedom of movement and of settlement, the freedom of opinion, the freedom of expression in all its forms, the freedom of meeting, of setting up organizations and of subscribing to these organizations.

It is evident that Morocco endeavours, by virtue of law, to preserve its institutions, its sacred values its territorial unity, and to ensure the protection of property and people against all action of violence or destruction.

Every defendant is tried before an ordinary jurisdiction according to one and the same law, in form and content, the rights of hte defence are guaranteed, the multiplicity of recourse against the sentence is one of the fundamental principles of the kingdom's judiciary system.

Every time legislative shortcomings appear, abuse or violations in application occur, Morocco works with the same enthusiasm to adopt the appropriate decision with respect to the principle of balance and with a view to realizing the completion of the state of law. The council has decided to set up two working groups: The first will be in charge of examining the situation in cases of police or preventative custody, and the second of examining the overall situation in prisons, at the legal and practical levels, taking as bases, in both cases, the Amnesty International dossier. The two groups will submit a report to the General Assembly on the basis of which will be defined the propositions that we will have the honor of submitting for your majesty's high appraisal.

It was also decided to designate a working group in charge of information and of contacts with international organizations concerned with human rights—including Amnesty International—to make known the reality of the situation in Morocco in this matter. Your majesty, certain members of the council have raised the question of the solicitude of the royal pardon in favour of people sentenced for crimes concerning state security, on the occasion of the birthday of his majesty, may God glorify him, the Youth Day: symbol of hope, of progress and of prosperity, while others were opposed to this grievance, either because it has no justification, or because it is premature. [sentence as received] The decision is up to the sovereign, a decision which can only be right and fair. May God perpetuate his majesty's glory, health and happiness, and may he gratify him in the person of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid and all the royal family.

God listens and answers the prayers of those who implore him.

The faithful servant, president of the council: Mohamed Larbi El Mahjoub.

The faithful [word indistinct] secretary of the Council: Mohamed Mikou.

Kuwait

Government Reacts to Iraq's 15 Jul Allegations

Ministers on Explanatory Tour

LD1807123990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1154 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 18 (KUNA)—Kuwait Wednesday launched a wide-scale drive to explain the Kuwaiti point of view vis-a-vis an Iraqi complaint against it which was delivered to Arab League Council two days ago.

Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al Jabir left this afternoon to Saudi Arabia in the first leg of a tour that will take him to other GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states to hand over messages from H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir Ahmad to the [words indistinct].

Shaykh Sabah told KUNA prior to departure that the mesages "deal with the contents of the complaint forwarded by the brothers in Iraq to the Arab League Council."

The Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-Awadhi is due to leave later this afternoon for Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon on a similar mission.

The minister of justice and legal affairs, Dari Abdallah al-'Uthman will in the meantime leave for Arab Maghreb countries to deliver similar messages from H.H. the amir to the leaders of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania.

Minister Carries Message to Egypt

LD1807190390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1638 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 18 (KUNA)-Kuwait's state minister for cabinet affairs Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi arrived in the Egyptian Mediterranean port city of Alexandria Wednesday at the onset of an Arab tour.

Al-'Awadi, who is also to visit Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, is carrying messages from his highness the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad to those countries' leaders dealing with the Iraqi complaint to the Arab League.

National Council Issues Statement

LD1807185690 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jul (KUNA)—The National Council held a closed meeting this morning, Wednesday 18 July 1990, at the government's request, during which it studied the memorandum submitted by the Iraqi government to the Arab League on 15 July 1990. [Words indistinct] the contents of the memorandum and in the light of the explanation provided by his highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, it [the National Council] held a detailed discussion which led to affirming the following facts:

1. The National Council stresses that Kuwait has been, still is, and will remain loyal to its nationalist commitments, and is a believer in Islamic issues on the basis of its belief in noble Arab values and the principles of the Islamic Shari'ah [law].

2. The Council stresses that out of its belief in its Arabism and nationalist and humanitarian duty, Kuwait has contributed, and is still giving generously without expecting anything, to support its sisterly Arab countries in all circumstances and difficulties. Perhaps the most distinguished among Kuwait's nationalist stances, was the one it adhered to out of its belief in and conviction of the joint Arab responsibility regarding the Iraq-Iran war which exposed Kuwait to acts of subversion and blackmailing and endangered the interests and lives of its people and citizens, the most serious being the vile attempt to attack his highness the amir of Kuwait's convoy. Kuwait has not succumbed or retreated from continuing its support for the Arab stand morally and materially at all Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

3. While the Council denounces the contents of the Iraqi memorandum for its violation of rights of neighborliness, overlooking Arab and Islamic fraternal duties, and for its phrases and expressions which contradict international values and norms, it stresses the need to adhere to the principles of consultation and understanding, and holding dialogue in contemplation before hastily spreading accusations against Kuwait or attempting to cast doubts on its national and humanitarian stands. [Kuwait] bases its political policy and its relations with every country in the world on the principles of international justice and peace, renounces the policy of violence, threats and extortion, and reaffirms its firm commitment to international charters, accords, and conventions.

While the Council declares its complete confidence in the wise policy of its leadership, it stresses its capability to adopt measures, decisions and stances it deems suitable, and which are dictated by the circumstances. We pray to God to help us succeed for the good and interest of our dear homeland and our Arab and Islamic nations.

Memo Sent to Arab League Chief

LD1907114790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 19 (KUNA)—Kuwait Thursday expressed dissatisfaction at the Iraqi memo handed to the Arab League secretary general July 15, which included unfounded allegations and accusations against Kuwait.

Kuwait said, in a memo sent by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah to the Arab League chief yesterday and asked to be circulated among member states, that it received with profound surprise the Iraqi memo.

The Kuwaiti memo said that what was included in the Iraqi memo "does not correspond with the spirit of

current brotherly relations between Kuwait and Iraq and contradicts with the simplest basis which we are all keen they govern Arab ties".

"(?That) doubles our surprise is that this memo comes from Iraq at a time the two countries continue coordination in the various fields and also come at a time Kuwait exerts its good offices, and on all levels, to strengthen security and stability in the region," the Kuwait memo underlined.

The Kuwaiti memo went on saying that it is regrettable that the Iraq memo alleges that Kuwait worked toward undermining Iraq, at a time everyone knows Kuwait's supporting stance of Iraq.

"And everyone knows how much Kuwait suffered from this national stance, as it came under direct attacks, which targetted its sons, lands, oil installations, oil tankers and its trade interests," the memo said. "It is really sad when twisted aims black out (?acts), doing injustice to a history that we are living and which its ink has yet to dry up," the memo added.

It affirmed that Iraqi allegations (?of the) gradual and programmed advancement toward Iraqi territories is "falsification" of reality and facts, as Iraq has a long record of documented transgressions on Kuwaiti territories.

Kuwait also called for the formation of an Arab League arbitration panel on the demarcation of borders between the two countries, on the basis of treaties and documents concluded between Kuwait and Baghdad.

As regards to oil prices, the Kuwaiti memo noted that Kuwait suffered as much as Iraq did from the slump in production during the 1980s when Kuwait could have produced larger amounts of oil, in comparison with its huge reserve.

On the Iraqi allegation that Kuwait pumped oil from the southern part of Al-Rumailah oil field, the Kuwaiti memo affirmed that the said part of the field is part of the Kuwaiti territories.

It said that production operations take place inside the Kuwaiti territories, while Iraq is still drilling fields inside Kuwaiti territories, inflicting serious damage to the reserve of the Kuwaiti part of the field.

Kuwait also expressed readiness to study the Iraqi proposal, calling for the establishment of a fund for Arab aid and development, "but what Kuwait does not understand nor approve that the said proposal comes (with other allegations) to undermine and offend it (Kuwait). [no closing quote as received]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Telephones Iraqi, Kuwaiti Leaders

LD1807193290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1657 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah 18 Jul (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, today, Wednesday, had a telephone contact with his brother President Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

During the conversation, they exchanged points of view over the problems of the hour on the Arab scene, in addition to all that strengthens the ties of the fraternal bilateral relations and serves the interests of the Arab nation.

On the other hand, King Fahd had a telephone contact with his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait, in order to discuss all that is likely to reinforce the process of cooperation and solidarity between brothers at the level of the Arab region.

Iranian Government's Rights Violations Criticized

PM1807110590 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 15 Jul 90 pp 1-18

[Editorial: "Does Iran Understand Jurisprudence in Human Relations?]

[Text] We do not believe that Islamic history is difficult or unclear. When we refer to the reasons for the conspiracy against Islam and Muslims by the shu'ubi [adherent of al-shu'ubiyah, a movement in the early Islamic commonwealth of nations which refused to recognize the privileged position of the Arabs] groups which sought to kill the Arab and Islamic spirit, we find that most of these deviationist elements emerged from Iran. But they could not tyrannize the Islamic faith in their favor, even by these means. And Iran continued to pursue its line despite the numerous conspiracies and crushing wars faced by its peoples.

As the subject reemerges in the current era of Khomenyi verses, this will not change the nature of things so long as the vestiges of the past can be revived to try to obstruct the Islamic movement march, on various pretexts which the Islamic world has exposed over a decade since the start of the so-called Khomenyi revolution.

Apart from convulsive reactions and tampering with the political scene through childish ideas or by exploiting the adolescents belonging to its revolution, Iran has continued to claim that it is the representative which has absolute authority and can speak on behalf of the world's Muslims, when in fact it can still find no one to recognize it as an Islamic side compatible with the faith's axioms and purity.

A state whose crimes have been condemned by human rights organizations, which the Islamic peoples have condemned for its violation of security in the holy places, and whose people continue to complain about the

authorities' injustices against them is a state that is not fit to speak on Muslims' behalf.

The plaintiff and the defendant differ over the Islamic and even human judicial judgment, and Iran's authorities need to declare their repentance to the world for the crimes which have afflicted Muslims and others and placed Islam in the dock before public opinion. They have taken no account of the human and legal considerations defended by Islam, which has been a unique source of legislation, defended these principles, and resisted anything opposed to them.

We do not believe that the Iranian Government—which has adopted chauvinist behavior and used Islam for sectarian and racial purposes and to realize grand, imperial dreams—lives in the world of reality or understands the changes of the age or the new role in the world. Otherwise, how could a state be hostile to its own people, expel its best thinkers, businessmen, and experienced administrative elements, and replace them with lackeys, profiteers, and the dregs of society. It is a state which cannot keep pace with social and economic development and build bridges of trust with the world. It is a patient still in a mental hospital!

A government which pushed its people toward death, used its people in suicidal attacks in its war against Iraq, withdrew the deposits of the Iranian people's treasury, was implicated in criminal acts in Lebanon, conspired with Israel, and tried to obstruct the mujahidin march in Afghanistan—such a government cannot obtain a certificate of good conduct.

And if the Iranian authorities claim to have influence in the world and to be a decisionmaker among Muslims, then they are still deluded and must, before they get into mazes that are beyond their size and will, pay attention to their people, feed them, and lift their injustices from them. There are lessons to be learned from history, for Iran especially, more than anyone else. Every period has its considerations and values, and the Iranian government must learn how to live before disaster is inflicted on it by its own people!

King Fahd Receives Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister

Message From Amir Delivered

LD1807175490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who handed the custodian of the two holy mosques a written message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived in Jeddah earlier today. He was received at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Salim Sunbul, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Jeddah branch; the representative of the royal protocol; and Ibrahim al-Mansur, the Kuwaiti consul in Jeddah.

Departs Jeddah 18 Jul

LD1807175990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 18 Jul (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Jeddah this evening after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives on Visit 18 Jul

Welcomed by King Fahd

LD1807144190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 18 Jul (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, monarch of the Jordanian Hashemite kingdom, arrived this afternoon in Jeddah on a visit to the kingdom. The custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, was present at King Abd-al-'Aziz international airport to welcome him. Also present to welcome him was His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah Bin Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd, Departs

LD1807173790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1522 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Jul (SPA)—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and his brother King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, held a meeting today [18 July].

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; on the Jordanian side it was attended by Mudar Badran, the prime minister and minister of defense, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, head of the royal court, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, King Husayn's political adviser. [Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1605 GMT on 18 July transmits a report which adds the following information: "His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal left Jeddah this evening after a short visit to the kingdom."]

Republic of Yemen

Salih Telephones Iraqi, Kuwaiti Leaders 18 Jul

JN1807204090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, telephoned his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this evening. Salih expressed his heartfelt and sincere congratulations in his own name and on behalf of the Presidential Council, the government, and people, to sisterly Iraq—president, government, and people—on the 23d anniversary of the 17 July revolution.

The two presidents discussed, during the telephone call, the latest Arab and international developments in light of the Zionist entity's continuous escalation, the continuous threats to sisterly Iraq and the Arab brothers, and the continuous fascist war waged by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian Arab people in an attempt to quell their brave intifadah and settle more Jewish immigrants in Palestinian territory.

During the telephone call, the two leaders also underscored the importance of protecting common pan-Arab security, implementing the recent Baghdad summit resolutions, and making every effort to unite and pool Arab resources to confront this new Zionist onslaught and to close all divisions that could be exploited by the common enemy of the entire Arab nation to further waste these resources and fragment the nation's solidarity and cohesion at this historic stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The brother president also telephoned his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait. He discussed developments in the Arab arena with the amir. The two leaders reaffirmed the need to tackle the nation's issue in harmony with its higher interests, common pan-Arab security, stability, and solidarity in order to confront the hostile Zionist campaigns and onslaughts.

Soviet Oil Minister Arrives in Sanaa for Talks

JN1807140290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Soviet Petroleum and Gas Industry Minister Filimonov arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country lasting several days. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the Soviet industry minister said he was making his visit in the context of traditional mutual relations between the Soviet Ministry of Petroleum and Gas Industry and the oil institutions in our country to exchange views on many oil issues.

He added joint activity in the oil industry between the two countries requires many aspects of modernization and change. The Soviet official expressed his joy over Yemeni unity. He wished our country further progress and development in various fields. He was received by brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; the Soviet Ambassador in Sanaa; and Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources officials.

Cooperation Talks Begin

JN1807182490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] A round of talks was held today at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources between our country and the Soviet Union. The Yemeni side was chaired by brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, while the Soviet side was chaired by Filimonov, Soviet minister of petroleum and gas industry.

Brother Bin-Husaynun reaffirmed our country's concern to preserve and develop bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two countries. He said our country will pay great attention to the opinions presented and they will be studied within the internationally known framework in the sector of international industry.

For his part, the Soviet minister of petroleum and gas industry expressed his appreciation for the achievements of the Yemeni people in all fields, the latest of which was Yemeni unity. He also congratulated them on this great achievement.

He said the Soviet Government puts a high priority on its relations with the Republic of Yemen and is working to develop cooperation and friendship.

The talks also dealt with aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of petroleum and natural gas. The meetings were attended by a number of officials at the ministry and the general institution for petroleum and mineral resources and the delegation accompanying the Soviet official.

Al-'Attas on Oil Drilling, Future Prospects

JN1807192290 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 16 Jul 90 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Prime Minister Haydar abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Bilal al-Hasan, Faysal Jallul, and 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Rawhani in Sanaa—date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] The Soviet Union has reduced the area of its concession in what was previously known as South Yemen. Has it done so of its own accord or at your request?

[Al-'Attas] The Soviet Union was given 35,000 square km in the Shabwah area in which it could drill for oil, although the request submitted by the Soviet Union at the time was for a concession of only 7,000 square km. But the leadership at that time decided to grant it the entire area in which to work. During its activities, we found that it would be very difficult to cover such a vast area effectively. Therefore, we came to the conclusion that we must focus our attention on areas that give a rapid yield and not to devote our work to such a vast

area, which is three times the area of Lebanon. Therefore, we reached an agreement with the Soviets to work in two areas; the area where oil was discovered and drilled, which is called 'Iyadh al-Sharq, and 'Iyadh al-Gharb and Amal. These oil fields extend over an area of not more than 2,000 square km. Work in this area is proceeding in accordance with the previous agreement, which was made on a contractual basis for oil drilling under which we will repay the loans we were given. This procedure applies to the whole area.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Is this procedure part of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between you and the Soviets in 1979?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, this is special treatment and comes within the framework of the Soviet-Yemeni cooperation agreement. There remains the remainder of the area. We have preferred to deal with it in accordance with the procedure of partnership for the simple reason that the contracts are based on granting the country a loan that it will repay whether oil is discovered or not. But partnership means that, in case oil is not discovered, the host country will not bear any financial expenses. We agreed to apply the partnership procedure in an area of 7,000 square km. This took place with the agreement of the Soviets, who found during their work that they needed new oil drilling technology for which they needed a third party. Negotiations are underway to reach agreement on this third party.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Will it be a Western party?

[Al-'Attas] The name of the company has not been determined yet. Many companies have expressed the desire to participate in oil drilling in the 7,000 square km area.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] What will happen in the remaining 35,000 square km area?

[Al-'Attas] The remaining area was divided into seven blocks. We have solicited tenders for these areas. Many companies have applied to work in these areas. We are currently studying their offers to select the most appropriate.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Is the Yemeni Hunt company one of them?

[Al-'Attas] The Hunt company has expressed its desire to work in the Shabwah area.

[Al-YAWM AL-SABI'] Are negotiations being held with the Yemeni state?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, with the Yemeni state. [passage omitted]

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Are you trying to join OPEC?

[Al-'Attas] We have not joined OPEC and do not contemplate joining it now. First, we must become producers.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Is it true that your oil reserves amount to four billion barrels?

[Al-'Attas] Our oil reserves have not been definitively determined yet. This is expected to take place before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

Ministry Supports Lebanese Government Statement

JN1907071090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry last night on recent political developments in Lebanon, the Republic of Yemen declared its support for the latest Lebanese government's statement. It said the statement is a main introduction to national reconciliation and an important contribution to the removal of obstacles in the way of the national accord march and the achievement of social peace and security in Lebanon. At the same time, the Republic of Yemen appealed to all sides in Lebanon to use the political regional and international atmosphere to highlight the Lebanese people's strong will to achieve their unity and sovereignty and promote their role in shaping the contemporary Arab will.

Jordan's King Husayn Holds Meetings With Salih

Discuss Arab Issues

JN1807183290 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn left Sanaa this afternoon concluding a two-day visit to the Republic of Yemen. Our dispatch reports from Sanaa:

[Begin recording] Two working sessions were held yesterday evening and today between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. Attending the sessions were 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, and members of the Jordanian and Yemeni delegations.

The sessions dealt with issues pertaining to the Arab Cooperation Council. They also focused on the general Arab situation in light of world developments and the repercussions of Jewish immigration on the peace process and its impact on the Palestine question and the security of the entire region. They also reviewed Red Sea security, in addition to brotherly bilateral ties. [passage omitted] [end recording]

His Majesty King Husayn congratulated the Yemeni people and leadership on the unification of the two parts of Yemen, describing it as a historic achievement. This came in a cable sent by his majesty to President 'Ali Salih upon departing Yemeni airspace. [passage omitted]

Departs Following Talks

JN1807141490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Sanaa at 1330 today after a two-day fraternal visit to our country. [passage omitted]

The two brothers, Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Husayn Bin-Talal, had held talks at the presidential palace this morning in the presence of Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council members, Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs, and minister of securities and social affairs, in which they concluded discussion of issues and topics concerning fraternal bilateral relations, the Arab Cooperation Council, and our Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Saddam's 30 May Speech on OPEC Oil Guidelines

JN1807120790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0839 GMT 18 Jul 90

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn at closed session of extraordinary Baghdad summit on 30 May 1990—read by announcer]

[Text] I personally have learned many lessons from this conference, just as any other individual goes on learning the lessons of life until his last moment. Humanitarian lessons are the most important lessons of life. God willing, our future conferences will all be like this and previous conferences, although previous ones witnessed certain fraternal discomforts. Thank God, this conference has proceeded normally.

Still, I have one observation to make to this righteous meeting. You know, brothers, that since 1986 the most important resource in all of our economies—whether in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Kuwait, or the other oil-producing Arab countries, which now symbolize economic strength in Arab life—you know that the most important resource of these states is basically oil. Since 1980, when we were at war, we faced circumstances as difficult as the war itself because they affected our economy and basic resource—oil. There was confusion in the oil market. There was lack of adherence to OPEC decisions.

True, we are not in an OPEC conference, but I have already said that I am only making an observation so I will not pause too long. What I am going to say will benefit all of us. The cause of this confusion is the failure by some of our Arab brothers to abide by the OPEC decisions when they flooded the world market with more oil than it needed, thereby enabling clients to buy below the fixed price. Prices dropped to a level which sometimes fell to $7 per barrel.

Regarding Iraq, which is not the biggest producer or the country with the largest share in OPEC, I was told that for every one dollar drop in the price of a barrel of oil, our loss amounted to $1 billion annually. So we can see what a great loss the entire Arab nation suffered in its total annual oil production. Here is where we can find the answer to our direct question: Is the Arab nation in a position to endure a loss of tens of billions as a result of an unjustified mistake by some technician or nontechnician, especially as the oil market is, or let us say the clients are, at least, prepared to pay up to $25 for the next two years, as we have learned or heard from the Westerners who are the main clients in the oil market?

Therefore, this enormous drain on our economy derives from a lack of vision or a failure by those directly concerned locally to view matters from a pan-Arab angle. Had matters been viewed from a pan-Arab angle and from the harm that would befall the entire Arab nation, I believe we would have hesitated for a long time before inflicting such great harm to the pan-Arab economy. With the same frankness, fraternity, and simplicity, we say that war is fought with soldiers and much harm is done by explosions, killing, and coup attempts—but it is also done by economic means.

Therefore, we would ask our brothers who do not mean to wage war—I am now speaking only as far as Iraqi sovereignty is concerned—I say to those who do not mean to wage war on Iraq: This is in fact a kind of war against Iraq. Were it possible, we would have endured. But I believe that all our brothers are fully aware of our situation. God willing, our situation will always be good. But I say that we have reached a point where we can no longer withstand pressure. I believe we will all benefit, as will the nation, if everyone adheres to the OPEC decisions on production or prices. Let us place our trust in God.

Paper Gives Warning on U.S.-'Zionist' Moves

JN1907111790 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad has called for adopting a deterrent and strong decision through which the U.S. administration realises that duality of dealing with the Arabs could never lead to any breakthrough in the Arab-American relations.

In its article published today, the daily said that the Arab's experiment [as received] in 1967 and 1973 wars clarified how could the Arab will release the dictum in the face of foreign challenges when the entire pan-Arab security is endangered.

The daily strongly derided a statement released by General Colin Powell chairman of the U.S. chiefs of staff after a meeting with the Zionist enemy Premier Yitzhaq Shamir on the U.S. abidance by maintaining Israel's security and offering absolute support through cementing the strategic collaboration as being a factor of deterrence in the region. The daily warned that any collaboration between the U.S. administration and the Zionst officials could not deter the Arab will in defending the legitimate Arab rights.

Editorial Criticizes Kuwait, UAE Oil Policy

JN1807113790 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—An Iraqi newspaper said that Iraq's demand to take oil prices up to 25 dollars a barrel is unquestionably legitimate. It is just an inflation-adjusted price of the 1971 per barrel price.

An editorial by THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER here today said the recent 18-dollar-per-barrel minimum reference price is but the best of war evils. It was acceptable at a time oil market prospects looked so dim in the light of the willful strategy of chronic quota busters like Kuwait and United Arab Emirates (UAE) to glut the market and to eventually upset the delicate supply-demand equilibrium.

Iraq has spearheaded an ongoing drive to stop the alarming decline in oil prices out of concern about its own interests,

the unity of OPEC and the interests of all oil exporting countries. Its demand for restraint in output and 25 dollars for a barrel was echoed by many states which are in more need than quota busters for oil revenues.

Paradoxically, the UAE and Kuwait's demand to have a bigger slice of the OPEC overall production is so flimsy that it can hardly stand any reasoning. Both want to almost double their quotas simply because they have "huge reserves". But would it be sensible to get rid of this huge reserve by offering oil at token prices? If their aim is to rid their countries of the danger of getting swollen, they can pump it out in the desert, at least to fix the moving sands.

The demand for a higher quota by the UAE which has one of the world's highest per capita income and others can only mean that it is acting in such a provocative and irresponsible way towards certain states including Iraq which has made tremendous sacrifices to help them keep their oil taps in their own hands. It would be too bitter to see these very states, which were until recently in danger of losing their grip on their oil resources, behaving in such an ungrateful manner. It is stab in the back.

Iraq, which has resisted direct military war and emerged victorious, cannot stand idle against an economic war imposed on it.

Paper Hits Some Gulf Rulers' 'American' Policy

JN1907073690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has condemned the new hostile campaign by imperialist and Zionist forces to besiege Iraq after the failure of their vicious political and media campaign. In its editorial today it said the tools of this new campaign are Arab sides that pursued an oil policy intentionally aimed at reducing oil prices without any economic justification and against the wish of the majority of the producers and the interests of the Arab nation.

It stressed that some rulers of the Gulf states are using oil in accordance with a (?strange), subversive, and short-sighted policy that serves only the enemies of the Arab nation and those who have ambitions in its land and resources. The paper described the policy of those Arab rulers as "American" and said it is being implemented upon instructions from the United States.

It said the Iraqis, while receiving the poisonous dagger in their back as a reward for their pan-Arab positions, will always be mindful of the proverb: One would be better off dead than having one's livelihood cut off.

The paper concluded by emphasizing that "if words fail to afford us protection, we will have no choice but to resort to effective action to put things right and ensure the restitution of our rights."

Paper Warns Against 'Games' of Some Gulf Rulers

JN1907090890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that the practices of some Arab rulers in the Gulf, as disclosed by President Saddam Husayn and the foreign minister's letter to the Arab League secretary general, reflect weakness in those rulers' understanding of their responsibilities toward the nation's future. In its editorial today, under the headline "The Poisonous Dagger," the paper says the results these practices may produce will reveal this weakness and show a deliberate stand by those who want to harm this nation

The paper warns that the future of the Arab nation will be very dangerous if such practices are promoted and as long as the big powers, using their brains and through hands that are supposed to have the same Arab blood in their veins, continue to fulfill some of their wishes.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, points out that neither the Arab masses nor history will allow such games, which threaten the future and destiny of a nation trying to dress its wounds. And some are now trying to open these wounds after all forces of evil have failed to do so.

The paper expresses regret for those rulers' actions and says that Iraq, which always devoted itself to the Arab nation, never expected a stab in its back with a poisonous dagger to come from a hand to which it had previously extended a hand of love and cooperation.

It stresses that affiliation to the Arab nation must be proved by actions, not just words. Iraq, the paper adds, is continuing to serve the nation even if some sides intentionally or unintentionally deviate from the march.

Paper Cites Present Policy, Future Goals

JN1907095190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0535 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has stressed that Iraq is proceeding with its development plan—which involves man, land, and resources—to the end. This, said the paper, is because of its dynamic and active will.

In an article today the paper emphasizes that the alliance of some big nations with the Zionists and the alarmed Arab rulers does not frighten Iraq.

The alliance between the enemies, the paper adds, is natural and does not frighten us for many reasons. Iraq has never concealed the goals of its revolution and it believes that the Arab nation must definitely find its way to the future. Baghdad, therefore, knows that it will have to confront the fears of those who are frightened about their own interests and gains and the plots of those who are trying to maintain the corrupt situation.

Iraq, the paper said, believes that the homeland's resources are owned by all its sons, not by a few groups.

Iraq used these resources in construction and development and in a manner that turned the whole country, from far north to far south, into a [development] project.

The paper said that Iraq is determined to obtain science and technology no matter how strong the conspiracies grow nor how diversified their forms and tools become. It noted that despite the difficult years of war launched against it, Iraq managed to obtain the most modern technology and the arms that enable it to defend itself against international conspiracies. This curbed and aborted the arrogance of those who planned an imminent aggression against Iraq.

Saddam Receives Phone Call From Bahraini Amir

JN1907115190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received a telephone call from his brother, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. They talked about the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to support them in the interests of Arab issues.

Phoned by Saudi King

JN1807200190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1953 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call today from his brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques. During the telephone conversation, they discussed fraternal bilateral ties and ways to enhance them in the service of the Arab nation's interests.

Assembly Adopts President-for-Life Proposal

JN1907114490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (WAKH)—Yesterday the Iraqi National Assembly, the parliament, adopted a recommendation calling for the election of President Saddam Husayn as president of Iraq for life.

The newspapers issued here today said the Assembly adopted this recommendation during its discussion of the new draft constitution that is scheduled to replace the present one.

Article 78 of the new draft constitution, endorsed earlier by the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party before it was referred to the National Assembly, fixed the presidential term at eight renewable years.

President Saddam Husayn, who has held the presidency since July 1979, is the fourth president since the establishment of the republican system in July 1958.

Newspapers here today reported that the 250-member National Assembly completed its discussion of the draft constitution yesterday following a three-day series of intensive meetings.

President Saddam Husayn said earlier this month that presidential elections will take place before the end of this year for the first time in the history of ancient and modern Iraq.

The new draft constitution consists of 180 articles distributed over eight chapters. These are: the Republic of Iraq; the legal, social, and economic principles; rights and freedoms and guaranteeing them; the institutions of the Republic of Iraq; the international treaties and agreements; the amendment of the constitution; provisional regulations; and final regulations.

The constitution articles stipulate that Iraq is a sovereign independent state, that the system of government is republican and presidential, that Islam is the official religion of the state, and that the Iraqi people consist of Arabs and Kurds.

The new draft constitution provides for the establishment of a Consultative Council replacing the present Revolution Command Council. The council shall consist of 50 [figure as received] members, of whom 50 shall be appointed by the president and the rest elected by direct secret ballot.

The Consultative Council shall be considered the upper chamber that will be consulted by the president on important matters related to the progress of the 17 July Revolution and the country's security and unity as well as pan-Arab issues. The Consultative Council shall have the right to legislate laws.

Speaker Cables Saddam on 'Conspiracy'

JN1807201790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih on the conclusion of the National Assembly extraordinary session. The session took three days to discuss great Iraq's new draft constitution.

The National Assembly speaker said in his cable that after U.S. imperialism and world Zionism had failed in their previous attempts to encroach on the march of great Iraq and to stop its progress, they found new methods of conspiracy inside the nation. The new methods are those of manipulating some of their elements who have sold their homeland and economy to imperialism so as to affect our economic resources by taking stands, measures, and steps that directly serve Zionism and imperialism after the failure of their declared political and military stands.

The National Assembly speaker said the great Iraqi people are very confident that Iraq—under the wise leadership of the president—can overcome all these attempts and abort, God willing, all their mean measures against our people and nation's progress.

Agriculture Minister To Embargo Territories

TA1807120690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jul 90 p A14

[Report by Aharon Pri'el]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan intends to impose an economic embargo on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip "to prevent the intifadah from strengthening," as he put it.

In the framework of the planned policy, Israel will stop selling fertilizers, chemicals, cows, chicks, seeds, and plants to farmers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Such deals have an estimated value of between $800 million to $1 billion annually. Last year the farmers of the territories increased such purchases in a bid to establish an independent agricultural alignment in the territories.

The agriculture minister said in reply to a question: The aim is to halt all economic support to the residents of the territories to the extent it is used to support the intifadah. This is our struggle. I will do everything possible within the framework of the law to stop all economic support for the residents of the territories, which in turn—directly or indirectly—helps the intifadah strengthen.

At the same time, the minister said that it has been decided to tighten supervision to prevent the smuggling of agricultural produce into Israel. According to the estimates of Israeli farmers, who are restricted by quotas, they suffer damages of up to $1 million weekly as a result of vegetable smuggling into Israel.

It has also been learned that Agriculture Ministry experts have been examining means to impose laws of agricultural planning on the produce of the territories, in accordance with the international law allowing such steps to be taken by a sovereign country in the territories under its rule.

Levi Interviewed on Syria Talks, U.S. Ties

TA1807201690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1840 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Yoram Ronen, Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, and political affairs correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin; on the "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Are you back to full-time work after your heart attack, Mr. Levi? Are you absolutely recovered?

[Levi] Thank God, I have returned to normal work and am fully recovered. I must have known what the duties of this office require.

[Ronen] Does the foreign minister's job description include a heart attack?

[Levi] No, no. But there is a heavy burden of so many activities in so many spheres without repose. I live in a distant township, travel to Jerusalem every day, and address every possible challenge. One is but flesh and blood, after all. The attack was relatively mild, and I am now 100 percent okay.

[Ronen] Will you soon be able to hold meetings outside the country?

[Levi] Absolutely. For the first time in my life, I have become obedient: My doctors gave me a piece of advice, I accepted it. Now, however, I can hold any meeting wherever it may be.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Foreign Minister, perhaps we can address this week's main political headline: Do you see a positive change in Syria's stand, as reflected in this week's meeting between President al-Asad and President Mubarak held in Egypt—which has signed a peace agreement with Israel—and perhaps even a willingness to launch some kind of negotiations with Israel under certain conditions?

[Levi] Look, judging from the content, we cannot point to substantial changes. However, any such declaration of readiness to follow the path of peace, to take a political road, is positive. Israel encourages this approach, and the Israeli Government will do its best to promote the peace process. We have, of course, basic stands which reflect Israel's crucial interests. They are known. At the same time, any activity aimed at creating a political process, including that carried out by Mubarak, is welcomed and encouraged by Israel. Israel has already announced its readiness to meet with any of its neighbors in any location at any time and without preconditions. This message, which was proferred by the prime minister, was very well understood in Egypt.

[Ronen] In Syria too.

[Levi] It was certainly transferred—as mentioned both here and in the Knesset—to the Syrian president who reacted as he did. We must not be disappointed by the familiar tough stands. What matters is the direction, and Israel always examines every direction and welcomes any action aimed at bringing about a dialogue, or demolishing the wall of hostility around Israel in this era of falling walls elsewhere in the world. Israel expects the wall of enmity and hostility around it to fall, and any willing party will find Israel's hand outstretched in peace.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, we have spoken of Arab countries around us, such as Egypt and Syria. Would it be a correct observation—it has already been made, and it is one possible interpretation of events—that this government's new political line is, first of all, negotiations with Arab countries, rather than negotiations with Palestinians in the territories? Is this the new emphasis?

[Levi] No, no, no, there is no new emphasis. It is the so-called spring cleaning of the traditional Israeli stand.

All Israeli governments have said that our primary course and political ambition is to attain a dialogue with sovereign countries neighboring Israel, because it is there that the main problem, the main peril lies. That is the reason for our action at Camp David, and for our decision to pursue this course. We never ignored the Palestinian problem—it does exist. In the Camp David agreements too, ways of jointly addressing this problem were agreed upon. This means that if a neighbor, if Jordan....[changes thought] In view of the rumors, the cries of despair heard in Jordan for which I see no reason, I am seizing this opportunity to state unequivocally that the Israeli Government....

[Ronen, interrupting] Perhaps we should note King Husayn's remarks to the effect that the current danger of war in the region is similar to the situation on the eve of the Six-Day War.

[Levi] First of all, I would like to stress most emphatically and unequivocally—and I am responsible for what I am saying—that the Israeli Government has no intention of either attacking Jordan or doing anything to destabilize it. Our border with Jordan is our longest and quietest. Israel has an interest in continued stability in Jordan. I reject all the accusations and charges attributing Israel with all kinds of aggressive plans endangering Jordan. We have no such intentions. Israel is extending its hand in peace to Jordan and to all its other neighbors. It wishes its long border with Jordan to remain quiet, and it hopes for stability in the Jordanian Kingdom.

[Halperin] Yes sir, but we have no negotiations either with Jordan, Syria, or the Palestinians. We are negotiating with the Americans. This is the sovereign state with which we have been negotiating, and it seems that there is a substantive disparity in outlook. The Americans appear to have accepted the fundamental approach, saying that the crux of the conflict is the Palestinian problem, with all its components—and not just the territories and their residents. How then do you bridge this gap? Can we reach some sort of formulation or understanding?

[Levi] First of all, we must not despair. A day will come when all our neighbors will follow suit with Egypt. This is our hope; all our political activity is directed toward that goal.

As for the United States, we must take pride in the fact that we do have a dialogue with the United States; and yes, we do have arguments. We must not deny that there is disagreement, but, look, it was said only a few weeks ago that there is a very tense atmosphere, and that we are in the midst of an acute crisis; that the Americans are not on speaking terms with us; that there are sanctions in the offing. But this has changed, and a climate of dialogue between friends has been recreated. I must say that not only was I surprised, I was gratified by Baker's message and by the way he proposed a meeting and a frank and direct dialogue between us toward a successful move. This is Israel's ambition as well.

[Halperin] This is the atmosphere, but there is substantive disagreement.

[Levi] Do not underestimate the atmosphere.

[Halperin] I am not. I am merely saying that there are so many spheres of misunderstanding, of disagreement.

[Levi] I will stress, first of all, that several weeks ago the feeling was that the skies were falling. Well, they are not, and we are not engaging in tantrums with the United States in which we are not speaking. Contrary to every prognosis, we are now talking about setting a meeting in the near future. This is now in their hands, and we are not dragging our feet, as I explained in the letter I sent to Baker. He wired me saying that he found in my letter both content and bon ton, and that he is actually looking forward to the meeting. As he said: We will make it. This is his belief.

[Halperin] But what will you tell them? That they are basically wrong in their entire outlook?

[Levi] No, no, no. First of all, one should not be frightened. Second, obstacles should not be raised just to say that we object to this or that. There is logic and certain positions behind what we do. In other words, we must achieve with the Americans...[changes thought] who are our greatest friends, and the major superpower in the world. We enjoy complex and diverse relations with them that are extremely important for Israel and the United States. They want clarifications, and I say that I would also like clarifications. What are we talking about here? A question and an answer that is submitted with an exclamation point at the end? No. The mistake was here, because the government...

[Halperin, interrupting] This is not the answer or...

[Levi, interrupting] Just a minute. I have not yet come to the answer. The government spoke in two voices, and this caused damage. This government is interested in talking with the U.S. Administration—which remains friendly in spite of disagreements—in a way that will make it clear to both sides just what the process is, and just what degree of reliability and fidelity will be attributed to what we agree upon together. For example, how committed will the United States be to the Camp David accords? Are they passe, or are they the order of the day? Second....

[Halperin, interrupting] Have they not yet told you?

[Levi] Please, let me continue. I am striving toward agreements that would be a kind of a package deal, so that we will not be surprised. Second, I want us to know what stage will follow the first stage. Just how coordinated with us will the United States be? Some say that the United States—and it is not just said, look who says it: the President, the secretary of state—does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state. So much the

better, but how can we shake hands on this deal? We will not force you to talk to the PLO—how do we nail this down? We remain committed to Camp David—how can we seal this commitment and the dialogue and coordination of positions in the future, so that we are not surprised and we are jointly able to keep our commitments? This is a package that, when tied together by mutual understandings, will let us resolve issues which currently appear unbridgeable. I am optimistic and convinced.

[Ahime'ir] But Mr. Foreign Minister, do you not feel that you are painting too ideal a picture of our relations with the United States?

[Levi] Idealism is good. I strive for it.

[Ahime'ir] Certainly there is, for example, one central issue regarding the participation of deportees and residents of East Jerusalem in the negotiations prior to elections in the territories. The United States says this is a prerequisite. We say: Over our dead body. To pursue 'Imanu'el's [Halperin] question—how can we bridge such a fundamental gap?

[Levi] Do you see what you have just done? You have gone back to the same yes or no. We told the Americans that the issue is not a yes or no question. We should, rather, discuss matters in the fashion I suggested earlier. Now, how does one surmount these two issues within the entire framework of agreements which are basic and essential for Israel? This is a very serious problem. How, also, will the United States act in relation to our neighbors? What will come next? The meeting will take place, but what will be discussed—just the election issue, or substantial long-term issues? Perhaps someone will take this historic opportunity to talk about the final agreement, or the future of Judaea and Samaria.

[Ronen] I thought that these matters were discussed intensively over the past year...

[Levi, interrupting] The fact is that many things remain unclear, therefore they must be clarified, and maximum coordination must be reached. I believe in this. As to the ways and means—you must agree with me [laughing] that I cannot give you my answers right now, I have to leave something for the secretary of state. I am optimistic regarding the meeting; there are difficulties, and I believe we shall overcome them if both parties so desire—the desire exists on Israel's side, and I understand that the United States shares this desire.

[Halperin] Perhaps Israel and the United States could formulate a memorandum of understanding on issues both countries agree upon, but perhaps something else would be even easier to do: A memorandum of nonunderstanding. There are so many things that the Americans have already publicly declared: They support the principle of territories for peace; they are in favor of an indirect PLO participation in the process; they call for the end of the occupation; they are for political rights for the Palestinians; they regard East Jerusalem as part of the territories. All these things have been said, so the gap here is really significant. What will you tell them—that they are wrong?

[Levi] What are you actually suggesting then?

[Halperin] I do not have to suggest anything.

[Levi] No, let us follow your question. Do you suggest we point out all the differences, and all the things we do not agree upon with the United States, and abandon all the positive things?

[Halperin] No, but let us face up to the situation.

[Levi] The situation should also be evaluated according to the experience of the past and of previous tests, while doing all that is possible to prevent a crisis. The United States, with all the declarations favorable to Israel that it has made, should know—and there are elements there that understand this—that there is no possibility of forcing anything on Israel that could pose a danger to its security. There is no possibility of forcing any accord on Israel that contravenes the will and position of its people. There is also an Israeli consensus that is much more widespread than we could imagine, and the administration keeps it in mind.

I am working toward an understanding based on those things held sacred by the Americans. The signature of the U.S. President is not something to sneeze at; it is held in high regard internationally. The Camp David accords are called passe by some, or old, far away in time—[UN Resolution] 242 came before Camp David, should we ignore it because it is more ancient. Things should therefore receive equal treatment. Israel now finds itself in a position in which it must be clear that understanding between Israel and the United States, and the continued consolidation of positions between the two countries, helps prevent wars. This is known and clear to all. This region comprises elements which will exploit any argument between Israel and the United States they feel is becoming a rift in order to launch military ventures which will put the entire region in danger of a terrible conflagration. Israel should remind everyone of this, and do all it can to make our coordination with the United States have the desired effect upon our neighbors.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Minister, when you were appointed to your current office, there was talk and there were various press articles and commentaries both in the United States and in Israel saying: Who knows, David Levi may not remain a member of the constraints ministers club; we can expect a pragmatic and moderate statesman. Do you intend to live up to this image? They also reminded you of all the poignant questions you used to ask during the Lebanon war. Now they are asking: What kind of a foreign minister is he going to be? Will he be a constrainer, a pragmatist, or a moderate?

[Levi] First of all, I am a pragmatist. Second, I am a moderate. And third, I am zealous about the future of my country and my nation, and the security of our children.

I am very sensitive to the fundamental truth that no one will take care of us if we do not take care of ourselves. There are facts around us attesting to this, and we saw weaknesses from afar as well. [sentence as heard] Therefore, insisting on things vital to us does not mean being radical, it means being responsible. A constrainer? Well, I always said that if there are things to which we cannot adhere, we should say so in advance. We must not come out with an initiative that will subsequently assume a different content, while preserving a virgin-white aura that is false. I warned that if we do not hold a timely discussion of all those things to which we are not going to agree, we are certain to arrive at one of two possible results: either a crisis with the United States, or a government crisis in Israel, or both. To my deep regret, this is what happened. We must therefore learn from experience. The government guidelines? In my opinion, they include a peace initiative, the full implementation of which we are committed to; a desire for an open and frank dialogue with the United States; and, between these two, an additional constraint: our relations with the United States, which are important and must be strong.

[Ahime'ir] But how do you explain the fact that on 14 May 1989 you voted against the government's peace initiative, while now, as the foreign minister, you have to implement a policy—or policy lines—which you voted against?

[Levi] Absolutely not. No way.

[Ahime'ir] Didn't you vote against the initiative?

[Levi] I voted against the initiative because it was divided into two, in accordance with the two views then prevalent in the cabinet. There are some parts in it of which a partner [not further specified] said: They are not necessarily binding. As I had predicted, only one thing was extracted from it: the matter of elections.

Therefore, I am true to the initiative in all its parts. To avert the perils, we need coordination with the United States. Without such coordination, and had the process continued as it was going when it reached a crisis, we would have reached a situation in which Israel would be obliged to withdraw from its initiative. Therefore, the initiative and all parts therein are good. It is based on Camp David; all we need is to attain agreement and accord with the United States, and to make progress. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr. Levi, we have not had a chance to ask you about your meeting with the three European foreign ministers next Monday.

[Levi] I am glad they accepted my invitation, that they will come and we will be able to talk frankly. There are a few problems. There is discrimination against Israel in Europe. Take the Arab boycott for instance. It is an accepted thing against which no sanctions have been employed. Another example: The connection between political and economic issues is not being used against Arab countries, although it is used unilaterally against Israel. We will have to speak openly and discuss these issues. In this sphere, too, Israel must be more active in Europe, because we are tied to it in every possible way with an umbilical cord.

[Halperin] Have we been neglecting it?

[Levi] I do not know that we have been neglecting it. Anyway, I dislike these terms. We have not made a sufficient effort. Recently, special headquarters have been established at the Foreign Ministry that will invest more effort in the European issue, because our very life depends on it.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Foreign Minister, I read a MA'ARIV headline today, which said that Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan intends to impose a boycott, or some sanctions, on the farmers of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in connection with agricultural input. Because these farmers have connections with Europe, this step is liable to become your problem. What is your reaction to the agriculture minister's plan?

[Levi] There is, there can be, no individual minister's policy standing apart from the government's policy. I will talk to him and we will try to coordinate our efforts in order to prevent any kind of anomalous outcome which will cause the government problems, or which will force it to break former commitments. I am certain we will reach an understanding.

This government, which had been painted as some kind of demon, some radical creature, appears to act differently when charged with responsibility. With the parliamentary support being so narrow, everyone knows what his responsibility is; everyone knows he must act as part of a team. I hope we will prove ourselves in every field. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon on Ties With U.S., EC Mideast Role

TA1907062890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Qital] We have not had a meeting with the Americans for quite some time. Is that not so?

[Ben-Aharon] We have been holding contacts with the Americans all the time. Only last week, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff—an august man—visited here. Besides, David Levi, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is expected to visit the United States and perhaps also Europe soon. No, I disagree with you that the dialogue has stopped; it continues. The problem is not one of communication but of content. In that sphere, as everyone knows, there are some misunderstandings or, shall we say, differences of opinion with

the U.S. Administration with respect to the process launched by Secretary of State Baker last fall.

[Qital] Is there any chance that the barrier of misunderstanding with the United States can be broken, seeing that the Israeli Government, to the best of my understanding, has no intention of giving Baker a positive response?

[Ben-Aharon] The problem is not the latest technical matter related to the famous yes to Baker's question. The issue we have tried to raise, which the prime minister addressed both in correspondence with the United States and in talks with U.S. representatives, is where is this process supposed to lead? What are the next steps, and what do we anticipate? What is the purpose of involving the PLO in this process? What do the Americans, who say that the PLO must accept the moves, think that organization can contribute? Once we expand this process into the more distant future so that we have a strategic understanding with the United States, we will then also be able to solve the less problematic issues of one point or another regarding the composition of the Arab-Palestinian delegation or what is called Baker's question.

[Qital] Finally, what about the European option: Can Europe be involved in all these things? Does the fact that the so-called EC troika is expected in Israel herald any change whatsoever in relations with Europe?

[Ben-Aharon] The EC has become a superpower in every sense of the word and is important to us politically and economically. The trouble is that, unfortunately, it has adopted a path which I would describe as rather irresponsible, because they know—and have always known—that the one to bear the brunt, for better and for worse, is the United States. This is why they can afford to take only their narrowest EC interests into consideration. This has been the case since their Venice summit in 1980. We have had a problem with the EC since that time and have been trying to persuade it that this one-sided course, manifested in the sale of enormous quantities of weapons to the Arab world coupled with a boycott on the supply of weapons to Israel and the courting of the PLO—nothing of which is new to us—is not the way to nurture trust and mutual understanding or to enhance Europe's ability to contribute toward any peace process.

[Qital] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you and shalom.

Foreign Ministry Official on EC Ministers' Visit

TA1807135890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Interview with Yosef Hadas, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, by Ze'ev Kohen, on occasion of the visit of the "troika" of EC foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen] The EC's position is known and was expressed in the Venice Declaration. Will Israel want the EC to mediate the Middle East conflict?

[Hadas] Certainly not. There is no room here for mediation. Our world is no longer one in which everyone lives on a isolated island; there is interdependence. We cannot prevent anybody from having views. If we speak only to those who agree with us, then we will not make progress. On the contrary, it is important to hold talks with those who do not agree with us. We will want to convince them of the justness of our position on the issues on which we disagree, and have them give the new government a chance to prove itself. There is no magic wand in politics, neither in foreign nor internal policy. There is no magic wand to solve problems. We would like to ask Europe to influence the Arab countries to investigate the [peace] initiative for themselves, and not to demand a priori answers to everything. What would then be left to negotiate?

[Kohen] Israel agreed to have an EC envoy stationed permanently in Israel. Does this not mean some sort of recognition of an independent entity, since the aim is for him to supervise events in the territories?

[Hadas] If they want to appoint a special person, that is okay. Where will he be located and how will he function? We are the authority at present. Sovereignty is still held by the government. We will discuss it with them and see. They are coming after the summit [not further specified] and it is the first visit by a troika, as a troika, to us and to the region in general, but primarily to us. They will raise the issue, and we will discuss it out of a desire to solve the problem, but while honoring our sovereignty.

[Kohen] Will the envoy's permanent location be East Jerusalem?

[Hadas] I do not think so; I believe not. I would say that not only do I not think so, but I am convinced of it.

Radio Reacts to Saddam 'Threats' to Gulf States

JN1807152590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 18 Jul 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: The threats launched yesterday by Saddam Husayn to certain Arab Gulf states on the subject of oil production and the fall in its prices are open threats accompanied by serious accusations about stabbing Iraq in the back with a poisonous dagger, as the Iraqi president put it.

There is no doubt that these threats require serious analysis, not only by the rulers of the concerned Arab Gulf states, but also by all Arab states and their rulers. The speech delivered by the Iraqi president yesterday

and the hawkishness and threats included in this speech underscore again some matters and facts that should be known to many Arab and non-Arab rulers.

The speech evinces President Saddam Husayn's nature, thinking, and approach to the fraternal Arab rulers who differ with him in opinion and policy. The speech also shows that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn does not only have ambitions to become the absolute master in the Gulf area, but has begun to act on this basis. In other words, he has begun to behave as an absolute ruler who can force the Arab Gulf states to succumb and acquiesce to his orders whether through appeasement or terrorism.

The Iraqi president's threats directed yesterday to the Arab Gulf states prove the soundness of the conviction that the threats he directed to Israel in the recent months were in fact, and simultaneously, aimed at scaring his opponents in the region and taming the Arab Gulf states. He found these threats an easy way to become the leader of the Arab world.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn certainly knows full well that Israel was not frightened; Israel, as always, is capable of defending its security and the safety of its citizens, confronting any threat or aggression, and inflicting double retaliation. He also knows full well that Israel has no intention of attacking Iraq or any Arab state and that Israel has no interest at all in attacking any Arab or non-Arab state.

In any case, President Saddam Husayn's speech yesterday and the strong threats directed to the Arab Gulf states might imply that the concerned Arab Gulf states should consider the tens of billions of dollars given to Iraq as dead debts. If these Arab states are lucky, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will not submit a statement of account showing that these states are indebted to Iraq by tens of billions of dollars.

Syria Talks Termed Public Relations 'Gimmick'

TA1807142990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jul 90 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Two Nay-Sayers Using A Code"]

[Text] For a few days now we can busy ourselves with the Syrian president's willingness to enter negotiations with Israel about the Golan Heights. If it was some secret Israeli contact with Syria—unconfirmed as yet—that contributed something to al-Asad's announcement, the prime minister deserves a medal.

He has entered his second decade and third term as prime minister without any movement in the process toward an arrangement in the Middle East, and without the sky falling on him (and us) yet. The daydream of an arrangement with Syria is the kind of trick that allows Shamir to last this impressive time span.

Last month, in an outburst of hospitality uncommon for him when it comes to a move with a real chance of success, he invited al-Asad to come for a visit. His former deputy and foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, did not send empty invitations to King Husayn, rather he signed an important and surprising agreement with him three years ago. Shamir was not a generous host then. He accused Peres of treason. It is small wonder: With Husayn it might have been serious. As far as the prime minister is concerned, in the case of al-Asad we are dealing with a public relations gimmick.

In the absence of a political move such tricks are employed. As pleasant as it may be to hear al-Asad making remarks that are not war threats, no agreement between Syria and the Israeli Government is possible. The current government will, naturally, not return the Golan Heights. Even an Alignment government could not have done that. During the Alignment government term, and to some extent upon its own initiative, some 500,000 Israelis signed a petition against abandoning the Golan Heights. Time can be bought, however, with the use of such headlines. The Prime Minister's Office, which in the past made some of the most abusive remarks at the press ("the dogs bark, but the caravan goes on"), should be grateful for the current barking of the media headlines. The media hunger for news, coupled with the desire in Western capitals to see some political advance, gives al-Asad's statement the kind of vitality it does not have on its own.

The Syrian president, who has a long-standing dispute with the PLO, is no more enthusiastic about a Palestinian state than Shamir. As far as he is concerned, negotiations with the Palestinians can be indefinitely postponed.

Besides profiting Israel by his stylistic moderation, the price he paid for renewing ties with Egypt, al-Asad's Alexandria announcement has reduced the pressure on Israel to move faster on the issue of the West Bank.

Such an attitude toward a moderate statement from Damascus may sound too sour; after all, why not bask in its warmth? Because, besides being futile (and not new—al-Asad has said as much before), it fits in the government's efforts to derail the dialogue with the Palestinians. The desire to stall, in which the prime minister has gained a very high degree of proficiency, is assisted by the fact that this is a new government with a new foreign minister.

In a discussion I held last week with a group of U.S. Jews close to the complicated issue of our relations with the United States, I was surprised to find out just how much they are in the dark when it comes to understanding the Shamir government.

They came here to get a first-hand impression, and unintentionally helped to demonstrate another reason why Shamir has not yet run out of stalling tactics and maneuvers. The Americans, who are the main problem of this government when it comes to a political freeze,

have a systematic, though somewhat awkward, method of dealing with a new political situation: They study it closely, quite slowly, and allow all influential elements to play themselves out. That is why U.S. officialdom, as well as the U.S. Jewry, are waiting for this seemingly new picture to clear up.

For example, they are wondering who exactly is this David Levi, as if any salvation could come from him. They are waiting for Godot. Or as one of them has said: Perhaps it will become apparent that there is some sort of crack, some new turn, a slight chance that might bring about a shift.

This tendency is a blessing for Shamir's government. At the same time, every remark like that made by al-Asad nourishes the great hope—that wishes to fulfill itself—entertained by Washington, Cairo, and Western capitals that their tremendous efforts are not in vain.

That is why, in the twisting and turning ways of Israeli politics, al-Asad's remarks will have the opposite effect of the impression they made.

It is as though these two veteran hardheads from both sides of the border are talking to each other in a code language of nay saying. This is music to the ears of only those who wish to believe an illusion, or make others believe it.

IDF Reportedly 'Concerned' Over Lebanon Fighting

TA1907084190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 90 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Menahem Horowitz, and the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Force] is following with concern the fighting between Amal and Hizballah at Iqlim al-Tuffah, north of the security zone in southern Lebanon.

After Hizballah members managed to capture the village of Jarju', situated seven km from al-Nabatiyah, the organization expanded its stronghold along the northern border of the security zone. The IDF is concerned that Hizballah will take over control of parts of the al-Nabatiyah plateau and from there intensify its attempts to attack IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops in the security zone and intensify attacks directed against the Israeli border. There is a similar concern regarding Fatah fighters who maintain their stronghold in the region. [passage omitted]

The IDF is also concerned that Fatah might succeed in infiltrating Iqlim al-Tuffah, which is close to the security zone, and will also try to carry out attacks against the IDF and SLA and to dispatch squads in the direction of the Israeli border. [passage omitted]

'Human Error' Cause of IDF Training Accident

TA1907052290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[Text] Human error and a failure of commanders and safety systems were responsible for the deaths of five soldiers and the wounding of 10 others during the combined forces exercise at a Negev desert training area. This is the main conclusion of the inquiry into the tragedy.

Reserve soldiers from an infantry battalion had occupied an enemy position designed as Hill 344 and were to begin moving on another hill code-named Shoshi, 1.5 km further north, when an artillery shell fell among them, killing four soldiers on the spot and wounding 11 others, including a female instructor. A high-level Army investigation headed by Reserve General 'Amos Yaron, a former chief infantry and paratroop officer and former head of IDF Manpower, has established that the immediate cause of the accident was the firing order given by the battalion's artillery liaison officer. Instead of giving the code word for the artillery to fire on Hill Shoshi, he mistakenly gave the code word for fire on Hill 344, which the soldiers had already captured.

Human error was the cause of this tragic mistake, but it also appears that the fatal orders in code were transmitted over the artillery and infantry communication networks, yet none of the safety officers supervising the exercise nor other senior officers listening in queried that command. The only person to ask if the order was correct was the artillery battery commander, out of sight more than a dozen kilometers from the scene, who had no choice but to follow orders when the reply: affirmative, came back. His query apparently raised no suspicions or questions among officers listening on their radios, all of whom in effect failed to act according to standing orders and safety procedures. Yet a number of crucial minutes passed before the first shell was fired, time enough for the liaison officer and others to double-check that all in fact was in order. The result: five soldiers killed, 10 wounded.

Gen. Yaron's committee has presented a list of recommendations intended to prevent the possibility of similar accidents in the future. The report was handed over to the chief of staff and to the head of the Ground Forces Command last night, and their review and discussion lasted until well after midnight. As a result, it was decided to dismiss or transfer eight reserve and regular Army officers, including at least two lieutenant colonels, and to reprimand a number of others. In addition, Military Police will carry out their own investigation as customary after any accident, and their findings will be handed over to the IDF judge advocate general, who may order further action. Defense Minister Moshe Arens was briefed early this morning by the chief of staff regarding the Yaron committee report and the decisions taken.

Air Force Improving Training Program, Planes

TA1707150690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 90 p 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] Only eight percent of those who begin the Air Force pilot course graduate after two years of training. The Air Force is improving its personnel classification process, and is shortening the course by some two months while saving on flight hours and placing the focus on better training for the remaining cadets.

Yesterday, in a tour of the Air Force flight school by military correspondents, it was reported that training a fighter pilot costs the Air Force some $2 million. The new structure of the course will allow cadets who are found unsuitable to drop out after 10 to 12 months, thus leaving the better cadets with more flight hours.

It was also reported that the Air Force has been examining new training planes to replace the Piper and the Tzukit (upgraded Fouga Magister). The flight school will soon receive 'Arava planes for air transport studies, and Defender helicopters for the fighter helicopters course currently being developed by the Air Force. [passage omitted]

Official Cited on Iraqi Oil Charges, U.S. Ties

JN1907060590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Jul 90 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan views the charges levelled by Iraq against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over oil production and prices as part of a process involving members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and hopes that the Kingdom would be able to play a positive role in settling the issue if the need arises, according to a senior official.

"Jordan does not have an official position on the dispute," said the official. "Jordan enjoys very good relations with Iraq as well as other Arab states in the Gulf region, and believes that these unique relations will enable it to play a positive role in resolving the dispute," said the official at an informal briefing for reporters Wednesday [18 July]. On the one hand, it could be a "quarrel within the OPEC since both of them are members of the organisation while on the other hand it could also be tackled as an inter-Arab issue," he said. "We hope it is so," he added.

The official pointed out that Iraq had taken its case to the Arab League's general secretariat. The issue flared with a charge levelled on Tuesday by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that unnamed countries in the Gulf had caused the glut in the oil market and caused the slide in prices. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, in a message sent to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, accused Kuwait of violating its borders and stealing oil worth $2.5. billion. The message also accused the UAE of losing billions of dollars for Arab states by causing a glut in the oil market and pushing down prices.

"The Iraqi message to the Arab League is a signal that (Baghdad) might want to bring the subject to the Arab summit" scheduled to be held in Cairo in November, said the Jordanian official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It means that the dispute could become an inter-Arab issue to be tackled at the summit."

In any event, Jordan will try to use its good offices with all parties involved to resolve the problem if the need arises, he said.

The official said Jordan will continue its policy of dialogue with the United States with a view to keep Washington engaged in the Middle East peace process. He described present U.S.-Jordanian relations as characterised by "diplomatic exercises" in view of the strain brought about by the "American attitude towards the Palestinian problem and the Kingdom's commitment to the Palestinian cause."

American-Jordanian relations fell to a low in 1987 after Washington changed its 27-year-old policy of meeting the Kingdom's arms needs and present American financial assistance to the Kingdom is at a "minimum level." The official characterised the obvious rift in bilateral ties as a function of the overall Arab concern over the Palestinian problem and "the performance, or the lack of performance, on the part of the United States in the context of the Palestinian problem."

However, "having said that, we cannot overlook the fact that there is a personal relationship between His Majesty King Husayn and (U.S.) President (George) Bush," the official said, adding that both leaders were in constant touch to exchange views on various issues. "This is not changing anything," he said. "However, it should not lead to conclude that we should not be talking with the U.S.," he added. As the Arabs continue to keep the U.S. administration engaged in Middle East peace efforts, "we hope we can positively influence, at a certain point in time, the American position."

The official refused to be drawn into commenting directly on the impact of the Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation and rapprochement sealed with this week's visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. "Positions in the world are changing so fast that one cannot apply the same methods to judge anything as in the past," he said.

But, he added, better bilateral relations were beneficial to both countries. "Rapprochement with Syria will help Egypt to be fully accommodated in the Arab World," he said. "Egypt can help Syria with its special relationship with the U.S."

With al-Asad's visit to Egypt, the last vestibule has been removed from the Arab ostracism of Egypt which followed the signing of a separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in 1979. Damascus was the last Arab capital to restore diplomatic relations with Cairo after an Arab League (decision) formally readmitted Egypt at an Arab summit last year.

The official brushed aside a pointed suggestion that Jordan's influence with the U.S. depends on "how radical" the Kingdom was. Noting that the democratisation process in the country has led to the emergence of "various active groups with varying political thinking," the official asked: "How can a country be labelled conservative or radical on the basis of its political groups?"

"Jordan has political groupings from the extreme right to the extreme left," he said. "It does not mean that the country could be described as leftist or rightist or even conservative."

"We have an active democratic life, and it is part of the democratic life that we have activists and groups which follow different ways of thinking," he said.

The official said despite some delays in the process, work on the national charter was on track and he expected the document, which will provide guidelines for and streamline political life in the Kingdom, to be ready before the end of the year.

On the Petra Bank affair, he reiterated that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) was doing what is needed to ensure that none of the private sector bank's employees would be deprived of their jobs.

Reports have said that while part of the staff will continue to be employed by the bank in the run-up to its liquidation, others will be absorbed by the Central Bank and the Housing Bank, while the rest would be employed by other commercial banks in the country. No specific numbers are available, but it is expected that the Housing Bank, which received the deposits and accounts of Petra, will absorb about half of the bank's employees while a new export investment and promotion bank will take in around 50 to 60, according to sources.

The official responded to criticism by the Public Freedom's Committee of the Lower House of Parliament that the government was not doing enough to reinstate people dismissed from their jobs for politial reasons by saying that the issue was no longer "political."

"The government has already taken a political decision," he said. "Every one (of the dismissed people) will be reinstated. Now, it is an administrative problem, depending on the efficacy of the (concerned) departments and the Civil Service Commission. It is only a matter of time."

The official also responded to the House commitee's contention that the government was not speeding up the process of repealing martial law. He said the government had already fowarded substitute laws for the 1935 Defence Law as well as martial law, and now it was up to the concerned committees in the House to discuss them, amend them, reject them or approve them.

"With the exception of the economy, where solutions are really difficult to find, the government has lived up to its commitments and pledges," the official asserted.

Press Reaction to Iraq's Stance on Oil Policy

Saddam's Warnings Supported

JN1807150890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jul 90 First Edition p 1, 11

[Editorial: "How Can Arab Petroleum Not Be a Curse"]

[Text] When we wrote an article titled "Arab Petroleum, a Blessing or a Curse," we were calling, in an embarrassed way—as we are not an oil country—for an Arab oil policy that would preserve Arab dignity and would be used for defending Arab causes.

Today, after President Saddam Husayn's speech on petroleum and the incredible losses that have been inflicted on fraternal and struggling Iraq, there is no justification for our silence any longer, especially after "some Arab petroleum" has been used against higher Arab interests.

Therefore, the Zionist imperialist conspiracy against Iraq in its known form—that is, the military interference to destroy the real nucleus for Arab progress and development in the fields of science and defense of pan-Arab security—has been transformed into a secret conspiracy to strike fraternal Iraq. This is being done by fiddling with prices in the oil market, tipping the balance of supply and demand in favor of lower oil prices, and inflicting huge losses on an oil-producing country like Iraq by meeting the interests of U.S. competitors to buy oil, which stems from the selfish individual interests of some oil merchants and policies in the Arab world.

We knew what was happening in the international oil arena. However, we had neither the statistics nor the scope of the oil conspiracy against fraternal and struggling Iraq until President Saddam Husayn threw his bomb, clearly pointing out that if words are not understood there are other ways to rectify the situation.

It is both painful and sad that, at this stage in which Iraq and the Arab world are being subjected to the fiercest imperialist Zionist conspiracy, people emerge in the Arab world who have great potential but are using it to strike at Arab steadfastness, dignity, and honor.

In an article earlier this month, we expressed the hope that the Arabs would agree on a unified oil policy that would preserve Arab resources and use them to serve Arab causes and the higher interests of the Arab nation.

Today, after the Iraqi president's speech, we have nothing left to say or wish for. The situation is so dangerous that we cannot remain silent about it, because Arab stances aimed at weakening and fragmenting Arab interests cannot be tolerated. This is the face of the new imperialist Zionist conspiracy.

Iraq Termed 'Asset'

JN1807151990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jul 90 p 28

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "In the Heat of July"]

[Text] We feel more and more that the overpowering strength of Iraq is an asset to us and to our nation.

Likewise, we feel more and more that those who are afraid of Iraq's power and who work to isolate Iraq from its pan-Arab environment are the Zionists, U.S. imperialists, and petty Arabs who continue to play the game of old balances and to attach importance to trivial calculations.

The U.S. imperialists feel pity toward us in Jordan. They are communicating to us the Zionists' warnings in the form of "pieces of advice," asking us to distance ourselves from Iraq and to heed the red lines in the growing Jordanian-Iraqi ties.

As for the Zionists, they are unequivocally saying that they view any Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement as "a dangerous situation." They cannot conceive how President Husni Mubarak can move in this direction, because "President Mubarak is a man of peace."

The imperialists and Zionists are extremely annoyed by the signals of peace emanating from Tehran and Baghdad. They have been wagering on the continuation of the war for 100 years. They have been planning for continued tension in the Arabian Gulf with a view to paralyzing both Iraq and Iran and blackmailing the Arabian Gulf states. They think that this might be achieved through draining Arab oil and buying it at the cheapest prices. They imagine that they can plunder the funds with which they pay for cheap oil through Arab purchases of the war games they call weapons.

The situation nowadays is different. The warnings, or pieces of advice, are useless. As for Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement, it will be accomplished. Peace in the Arabian Gulf is almost attainable. With regard to the blackmail game, it will end in our favor. Amid all this, we see the overpowering strength of Iraq emerging in the heartland of its pan-Arab environment as the greatest and most beautiful strength. As for others, Zionists and imperialists, they must retreat and respect Arab rights, the Arab entity, and Arab interests.

Jordan's agonies right now, which concern the human being's most basic needs for water, can by themselves be a sufficient reason for war in the face of the plunder of its water and the threats of aggression against it.

India waged a war to curb the influx of Bengali refugees to its territory in 1971. Jordan is being asked to maintain silence over the eviction of Palestinians from their national soil.

The prime minister said that Jordan is not "a banana republic." This statement should prompt the imperialist master who believes that he is in a position to offer "pieces of advice" to Jordan to reconsider his calculations. The imperialist master is well aware that there is nothing to justify his offering of "advice" to Jordan.

Glory to the Iraq of 17 July. Iraq's power, determination, and will are unprecedented. Iraq is an asset to us and to our nation.

'Pan-Arab Spirit' View Urged

JN1907081690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jul 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Pan-Arab View of Saddam's Speech and Iraqi Memo"]

[Text] Millions of Arabs have listened with great interest to President Saddam Husayn's speech on fraternal Iraq's national day. They have also followed the repercussions of this speech and the memo Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz addressed to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi outlining the Iraqi viewpoint on the border issue with fraternal Kuwait, Iraq's oil rights, and the call for an Arab oil fund to help the Arab states that need aid.

It is a great source of pride and satisfaction that Iraq is celebrating its national day this year with courageous steps toward turning a new page with Iran, after it has defended the Arab world and order under grave circumstances and was able, despite all these sacrifices, to occupy a notable place in the field of scientific and technological advancement and to powerfully confront the savage foreign political propaganda campaigns against it.

No one can overlook the pan-Arab dimension of President Saddam's speech and Foreign Minister 'Aziz' memo. So we say that fraternal Iraq is serious about reaching a pan-Arab resolution which preserves its border and oil rights, as well as the rights of the poor Arabs from the revenues of the oil-rich Arabs. This is why Iraq resorted to the Arab League in its capacity as the pan-Arab forum to achieve the desired pan-Arab solution.

It is essential, therefore, to view the Iraqi memo to the Arab League with a true pan-Arab spirit that rises above any narrow-minded or short-term considerations. The Arabs must prove their ability to achieve a just pan-Arab solution, preserving the rights of both Iraq and Kuwait, a solution which transfers Arabs to a true situation of equality, enabling them to confront the grave dangers threatening them all without exception.

It must be emphasized that achieving such a situation is a pan-Arab necessity as it is the only basis on which to build the intrinsic Arab power in the age of major international blocs, which are now being created at terrific speed.

While we congratulate fraternal Iraq on its national day and are proud of its pan-Arab performance, we strongly call for tackling the Iraqi-Kuwaiti issue with the spirit of responsible brotherhood and genuine pan-Arab commitment. We also emphasize the significance of the Iraqi pan-Arab call for the need to achieve Arab equality with the same spirit and sense of commitment.

'Brotherly Spirit' Advocated

JN1907073090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Quiet Talk About the Oil Situation"]

[Text] Although Jordan is not an oil-producing country or member of any regional or international organization related to the producers of this strategic element, it supports a number of principled issues currently being raised about oil.

We, because of our pan-Arab affiliation and direct and indirect interests, support preserving our oil resources and not wasting this perishable wealth. Moreover, we are for maintaining OPEC unity and abiding by the quotas

and ceilings agreed on by this organization out of our awareness that such a position is conducive to higher oil prices.

Oil, which is one of the most important sources of Arab wealth and an element of power for this nation, has recently become a counterweapon brandished by consumers against producers following failure to willingly abide by OPEC oil quotas. Thus, supply exceeded demand and the oil market became a market for consumers rather than producers.

In this respect, it seems logical for us to declare our support for rectifying the inverted situation in the oil market, supporting the principle of conserving this viable wealth, and backing the call for the establishment of a pan-Arab development fund that is financed by oil revenues.

We, however, do not wish to see any new issue of disagreement between the Arab brothers, nor do we want such a matter to be tackled outside accord and agreement as entrenched at the Amman summit in 1987. It is true that we support OPEC's unity, but we should first work for the unity of Arab ranks, which have not yet been cured of the wounds of earlier differences.

Therefore, we call on all the brothers to adhere to the brotherly spirit in tackling the differences over oil production ceilings and to renounce all that would weaken the pan-Arab position or dissipate this strategic wealth. At the same time, we hope to close the door from which foreigners can infiltrate and to stop any foreign attempt to exploit such a difference against the unity of the Arab position, or rather against Arab security itself.

'Some' Arabs Blamed for Price Drop

JN1907082290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 90 Second Edition p 16

["A Pause" column by Rashid Hasan: "There Are Americans in Our House"]

[Text] Why do some Arabs insist on handing their destinies over to the Americans? Why do they play the role of broker over their countries' resources? By what right and in return for what do they waste and exhaust the Arabs' energy and funds?

These questions and others, as well as a host of bitter facts, continue to shock the Arab citizen after reading Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech, particularly with regard to oil prices. He dotted the i's when he explained why there has been a drop in oil prices and who caused it. He cited astronomical figures for money the Arabs lost—Iraq alone lost $14 billion—because of failure to abide by OPEC quotas and the flooding of the market with oil, a matter which led to a drop in oil prices.

The United States has incessantly fought the Arabs with all means, and the economic war to destroy and exhaust their resources is perhaps the most serious one. It succeeded in finding satellites and brokers who turned their backs on their nation and even stabbed it in the back when they sold its oil at the cheapest price.

We ask those who departed from the nation how matters would be if these sums, estimated at hundreds of billions, were used to pay off the debts of the Arab countries and to help these countries pull out of poverty and backwardness? What if the money were spent to bolster the Arab countries' combat capability in order to repel the Zionists and prevent them from reaching the oil fields? Or is it better to keep them in Uncle Sam's treasury?

This policy must stop and traders should stop selling the Arabs' present, past, and future. Arab oil is for the Arabs. To allow the United States to implement its plans and strike at the rising Arab power and Arab determination will be the greatest catastrophe.

BBC Accused of Anti-Saddam Campaign

JN1907102590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 28

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Iraqi Warning Provokes Enemies and Raises Oil Prices"]

[Text] No one beats the BBC in spearheading every imperialist-Zionist campaign against the Arabs. For instance, it has presented Iraq's firm stand on the oil price and production issue as follows:

1. President Saddam Husayn wants to assert his leadership of the Arab world.
2. The president threatens the Gulf Arab states militarily.
3. The president resembles Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in his tactics and ambition, especially in the way he provokes hostility and challenges Israel to guarantee his leadership of the Arab World.

Those who heard the BBC's analyses yesterday will remember the role played by the Near East Radio in Cyprus during the 1956 tripartite aggression against Egypt, and the imperialist-Zionist instigation which preceded that aggression, such as portraying Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir as the Hitler of the Middle East who sought to overthrow Arab leaders and annex their countries to Egypt.

The clear Iraqi position on the issue of oil prices and production is vital. Iraq has tackled this issue silently for well over six months. This issue concerns Iraq as much as it concerns the Arab states and the oil-producing third world nations. This noble crude product must at least have the price of the water that Europe exports in one-cup bottles. Oil-producing countries with sparse populations and limited needs, and which are already rich, must not punish the millions of Arabs by producing more oil than their actual needs, thereby increasing the supply and reducing the prices. Remember, it was the industrial powers' exploitation of these countries since

1985 that brought down prices to $8 per barrel and unfortunately instigated Arab producers to rebel against OPEC, circumvent its decisions, and flood the market with two million more barrels daily over what the world needs!!

Saddam Husayn's leadership has nothing to do with the clear Iraqi position on this issue. Leadership stems from wisdom, courage, and real power not vacuum. Whether the Zionists and imperialists like it or not, Iraq is a real Arab power which has asserted its presence and has so far sparked the entire Arab nation's yearning for pan-Arab awakening to confront Zionist and U.S. imperialist hegemony.

President Saddam's warning to the Arab oil producers about the danger of pumping more oil than can be absorbed by the world market and also about the losses resulting from this execessive production, which only pour into the coffers of the industrial countries, and his call about the need to understand the hostile U.S. policies of encouraging such excessive production to impoverish us and the oil-producing third world nations; this warning by President Saddam is not a threat against anyone. If his voice is similar to that of 'Abd-al-Nasir, then we must remember that 'Abd-al-Nasir's voice was the voice of unity and freedom from subservience.

It was natural for the BBC to play this provocative role. After all, President Saddam's warning has increased oil prices in less than 24 hours and it will increase them even more in the next few days.

'Awn on Relations With Syria, U.S. Policy

NC1807130090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] In the second part of his interview with AL-NAHAR which the paper published today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said that relations with Syria are inescapable. He said: There are two sides to this relationship: the bad side which we have been through and the good side which we sought even when the bad side was dominant. Ideally, we should always have good relations with Syria because there are geographical, popular, and economic considerations and security concerns that bind the two countries together.

However, Gen. 'Awn said, we must formulate principles that respect specific points, such as Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. He added: If I follow a specific policy, then I do so at my own initiative and in line with Syria's policy—but not under Syrian custodianship—because one of the important principles that must be part of Lebanese policy is not to inflict harm on Syria even if at times I have to pay a price for this, such not purusing a particular policy that may be beneficial for the sake of preserving good relations with Syria. He said: We are trying to maintain Lebanon's sovereignty [words indistinct].

Gen. 'Awn said: Syria alone decides the extent of its support for the al-Ta'if accord. It may support it but not take part in its implementation.

On the al-Ta'if government, the prime minister asked: Where is its decision? Has it a decision which it can implement? It can spend the Central Bank reserves and bankrupt the country, but it cannot collect a single penny. Its decisions are incomplete even in the internal administrative sphere. Any person who has money to spend can do so but the important thing is to be able to collect. He added: Citizens in our areas have complete freedom and full rights. There are no additional taxes on them except of course the goods they buy there [West Beirut] which are overtaxed. No taxes are imposed on them here.

Asked if the appointment of a new U.S. ambassador can be regarded as a sign of reopening the dialogue with him, Gen. 'Awn said: If the Americans continue their policy, they will not succeed either with me or with others. If they start from an understanding of a new reality, however, they will then succeed with everyone. We defended ourselves against the heavy U.S. hand that is crushing our existence and is adhering to a different concept of Lebanon's existence, that is demolishing the Lebanese entity [words indistinct].

Gen. 'Awn stressed that the al-Ta'if solution means the destruction of the Lebanese entity through the establishment of a new regime. He noted that the 1943 understanding was reached on certain bases but today there is local criticism of its concept. The concept of participation in the al-Ta'if accord [words indistinct] the concept of independence as a result of the occupations. Gen. 'Awn then said: Most certainly, neither al-Yarzah ['Awn's defense ministry] nor B'abda accept the buying of [words indistinct]. We are ready to make the entire homeland [words indistinct] in this popular state. We are not ready to sell [word indistinct] to amateurs.

Envoys Reportedly Visit Damascus

NC1907065590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Political circles in West Beirut have revealed that General 'Awn has sent envoys to Damascus. The envoys are negotiating with Syrian officials to convey Gen 'Awn's stand on the Lebanese Government statement. These circles question the reasons for 'Awn's direct negotiations with the Syrians, which bypass the Arab Tripartite Committee.

Al-Huss Briefs Al-Hirawi on Talks in Damascus

NC1907051190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi was briefed by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss last night on the results of his visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

According to informed sources, the Syrian president told Prime Minister al-Huss that Syria fully supports the cabinet's initiative and is prepared to do all it can to ensure its success with a view to the full implementation of the al-Ta'if document.

Clergymen Discuss Al-Tuffah, Issue Statement

NC1807124790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The Jabal 'Amil 'ulema held a special meeting at al-Bayyad township under the chairmanship of 'Allamah Shaykh Ibrahim Sulayman at noon today to discuss the current situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The conferees studied the dangers threatening Lebanon in general and the south in particular. They issued a statement after the meeting demanding an immediate cease-fire to be accompanied by the simultaneous withdrawal of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hizballah groups from their positions in the south. The 'ulema demanded that Iran to adopt a clear position on what is happening or else it will be held responsible for the blood being shed in the south. They considered the incursion into the south as one of the major sins which are forbidden under Islamic law.

The conferees expressed their support for the Council of Ministers statement and the Arab committee's efforts. They urged the Lebanese legitimacy and leadership to officially request that Iran withdraw its revolutionary guard and send the Lebanese Army to Iqlim al-Tuffah. In conclusion, they emphasized that if the war against the south and its people continues, then they will issue decisions calling on the people of the south to defend their land.

Al-Musawi on Palestinian Presence in South

NC1907091190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi has said that the Palestinian presence in the south as part of the struggle against Israel is not rejected; what is rejected is the presence of those who do not want to return to Palestine.

At the weekly Koranic symposium organized by the Islamic Amal Movement, he noted that what is happening now is settlement [of Palestinians] on the pretext of disengaging the combatants. He pointed out that, according to U.S. plans and Israeli interests, 'Arafat is required to effect the 'Arafatists' expansion from Sidon's border to Iqlim al-Kharrub and beyond.

Al-Musawi described the settlement of Palestinians in the south as unjust, a dangerous precedent, and an evil measure through which land and sanctities will be lost, saying: The general situation has now become more dangerous and unjust. We will not abandon our responsibilities. He added that no one should expect Israel to spare the Shiites or 'Arafat, and that the others should reconsider their calculations before it is too late to emerge from the mud through which they are being dragged.

He urged honest and free people not to hasten to launch attacks and level charges, adding: We have no one but the Islamic Republic and Syria. As Muslims and nationalists, our interests are confined to these two countries. Let us maintain our relations with those with whom relations should be preserved.

He concluded by urging the Islamic Republic and Syria to preserve what is left of Lebanon, saying: Nothing will remain if the Islamic resistance is absent.

Fighting, Unrest Continue in Iqlim-Al-Tuffah

Amal, Hizballah Kidnap 35

NC1907063990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] According to security sources, Hizballah and the Amal Movement yesterday engaged in reciprocal acts of kidnapping in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb, involving 35 people from the two sides. Among those kidnapped is Mahmud al-Ba'labakki, a brother of the official in charge of Amal Movement's political security, and a brother of Haytham Jum'ah, member of the Movement's Political Bureau.

Contacts have begun between the two sides' leaderships and the Syrian forces command to free the abducted people. The Syrian forces are reported to have warned the two parties against new acts of kidnapping.

Amal Says Hizballah Hinders Peace

NC1807142890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] In a statement this afternoon, an Amal Movement military official asserted that Hizballah fighters are still violently shelling Iqlim al-Tuffah villages with mortars and rockets. According to the official, shells are landing in residential areas, particularly in 'Arab Salim, Humin al-Fawqa, and Sarba.

The official accused Hizballah of aborting peace efforts and hindering the Red Cross from removing the dead and wounded. He declared that the Amal Movement is prepared to facilitate the mission of the Red Cross teams, so that they can carry out their humanitarian duty.

Cease-Fire Accepted

NC1907071490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] According to the latest reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, the International Committee of the Red Cross has obtained the Amal Movement's and Hizballah's agreement to a cease-fire between 1000 and 1400 today to allow for the evacuation of the dead and wounded.

Red Cross Convoy Departs

NC1907084290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Clashes have eased noticeably on the 'Arab Salim and Jarju' combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah following the fierce battles that raged throughout the night and earlier this morning. Our correspondent reports that the lull will enable the Red Cross teams to enter Jarju' and remove the dead and wounded.

The representative of the International Red Cross in Sidon has advised that the International Committee of the Red Cross has obtained the Amal Movement's and Hizballah's agreement to a cease-fire between 1000 and 1400 today. He said that a Red Cross convoy will proceed to Jarju' via the Sarba road to evacuate the dead and wounded. The Red Cross convoy in fact departed Sidon at 1000 today for Iqlim al-Tuffah via the Sarba-'Ayn Qana-Jarju' road.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Resume

NC1907101190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The Iqlim al-Tuffah truce agreed to so that casualties could be evacuated from the area lasted little more than an hour. Violent clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah involving machine guns and heavy artillery resumed on the Jarju'-'Arab Salim combat line at 1115 today.

The renewed clashes forced the International and Lebanese Red Cross 10-vehicle convoy to withdraw from the scene of the fighting and assemble at the southern entrance to 'Arab Salim.

Lebanon's Al-Huss Arrives in Damascus 18 July

To Discuss Ministers Statement

NC1807082790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus this morning. He will hold discussions on developments in the Lebanese situation in light of the current Arab moves and the reaction to the recent statement issued by the Council of Ministers.

Meets President, Officials

JN1807135490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this morning also received Dr. Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and the means to implement the Lebanese Government's statement on national accord.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi and Mr. al-Huss held a meeting following the arrival of Dr. al-Huss in Damascus. Present at the meeting were Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs. The meeting focused on economic and trade relations between Syria and Lebanon and means of enhancing them to entrench fraternal bilateral ties further. Discussions centered on deepening cooperation between Syrian and Lebanese institutions, investing strength and capabilities, and planning meetings between officials of the two countries to forge fruitful formulas of cooperation in various spheres to the benefit of Syria and Lebanon. Discussion also centered on other issues of interest. [passage omitted]

Leaves Following Talks

JN1807150090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss left Damascus this afternoon at 1615. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi headed the delegation seeing him off.

Foreign Trade Minister Views Economic Development

JN1807171590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Aleppo, 18 Jul (SANA)—Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the third round of the agricultural and industrial products fair was opened here this evening.

Deputizing for President al-Asad to open the fair was Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, who delivered a speech in which he discussed the increase of agricultural and industrial production in Syria, the improvement of production quality, and the variety of production in both public and private sectors.

He said the door was open for each individual of the Syrian Arab homeland, whether resident or expatriate, within the state's plan and policy to encourage participation in building the country.

The minister of economy and foreign trade reviewed development processes in Syria in past years. He said that the import and export policies, resulting from economic plurality, have played an important part in guiding the import processes, making them compatible with the requirements for growth, giving priority to exports, and linking the financing of imports to the abilities to export and guarantee goods against foreign currency.

He discussed the growth in agricultural, industrial, and petroleum production in Syria. He pointed out that the gross national product has increased from 181 billion Syrian pounds in 1988 to 201 billion pounds in 1989. The capital rose from 29 billion pounds in 1988 to 33.3 billion pounds in 1989. The contribution of the goods production sector to the total production rose from 42.9 percent in 1985 to 49.8 percent in 1989.

Dr. 'Imadi said in his speech that the figures of the trade balance had been turned around from a deficit of 12.7 billion pounds in 1987 to a surplus of 10.4 billion in 1989.

The president's representative on this occasion also discussed the Syrian Government and leadership's intention to exploit oil and gas wealth and develop that industry, in addition to its interest in agriculture and in giving the Syrian Arab expatriates facilities to encourage them to invest their capital in their country.

Regarding the Arab political situation, Minister al-'Imadi said that every day, leader al-Asad makes new achievements toward unity and Arab solidarity so as to strengthen the Arab nation's steadfastness in defending its rights and maintaining its dignity and honor.

He added: The historic meeting made by the president in Egypt with President Husni Mubarak is no more than a reaffirmation of Arab nobility of descent and pan-Arab commitment.

The fair includes 124 exhibits, of which 107 are from the private sector.

Press Comment on Egypt Meeting, Pan-Arab Unity

JN1407080890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jul 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria-Egypt Meeting: Rule and Exception," AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial: If we consider Arab history alone as an objective indication of the militant Arab march over many centuries—and it is really so—we will come up with an outcome full of

historical pivotal facts. Every pan-Arab awakening in our life, every distinguished position in our militant march, every political summit and significant stand that our nation lived and practiced in its struggle against its enemies, and every pan-Arab tide or state of giving throughout a long history has stemmed from a Syria-Egypt encounter. A review of very ancient and very recent history underscores this sound and objective outcome.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Developing the relationship in terms of its strategic dimension must be, as it has been throughout history, a historical stage of exceptional significance and importance at a time of pan-Arab retreat that might also be considered exceptional. Judging by the same history and in light of the Syrian-Egyptian relationship in the service of pan-Arab struggle, the Damascus-Cairo meeting should be at the level of the challenge. The effective and earnest Arab solidarity that consolidates the pan-Arab stance must be the pivotal point in the concerns of the Cairo summit between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak to move the nation from the current stage of stalemate to a stage of vital awakening.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab masses view the two presidents' meeting with hope that rises to the level of aspirations for a substantial qualitative action that will move the nation from its present situation to a state of comprehensive balance. The masses have the right to have aspirations and to make demands from Syria and Egypt because they have no doubts about the ability of these two Arab leaders rise to the level of aspirations and challenges. The nation will arise and Arab action will regain its militancy as always happens when Damascus and Cairo converge on the militant, unity, military, and strategic levels. Thus the importance of the meeting and the results. The coming together of Syria and Egypt has always been for the sake of Arab dignity; and this meeting will also be for Arab dignity.

Under the headline "The Pan-Arab Meeting," TISHRIN says in the "Behind the News" column: Official and popular Arab Egypt today receives President Hafiz al-Asad on his first visit since 1976. As Egypt holds a special position in the hearts of the Syrians who expressed this feeling during the recent visit to Damascus by President Mubarak—who was accorded every care, appreciation, and sign of affection—Syria and its president occupy a special place in the hearts of the Egyptians. Syria has always been Egypt's right hand in confronting invasions and enemies. President al-Asad has always avowed Syria's firm readiness to save Egypt in confronting any aggression. Our Egyptian Arab people do not forget Syria's sacrifices in the October war and President al-Asad's bravery in this war which united the blood of the Syrians and Egyptians and recorded immortal glory for the Arabs.

After reviewing the circumstances through which the Arab nation is going and the exacerbating Zionist danger as a result of the organized and intensified Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territory, TISHRIN says: Syria and Egypt are the two wings of the Arab nation and with them the nation flies to loftiness and glory. The talks of the two presidents will certainly reflect impregnability and strength for the nation at a time when it is facing the most serious challenges.

AL-BA'TH on Peace Efforts

JN1907070490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Exceptional Importance of the Alexandria Summit", AL-BA'TH stresses in its editorial today that the historic Alexandria meeting reflected the will of two great leaders who for long have been comrades-in-arms and who are characterized by strong personal ethics, deep pan-Arab commitment, and a spirit of sacrifice and giving. Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak used to work in one state—the unity state, and in one army—the army of the United Arab Republic. They both served in the Air Force, and they carried one identity. The meeting, therefore, was full of joint feelings and reflected unity of interest and responsibility. It surpassed all extraordinary meetings.

AL-BA'TH adds: No one doubts that peace becomes stronger when Syria and Egypt join forces. The integrated force of Syria and Egypt renders peace efforts more serious. Consequently, international efforts toward peace find strong backing in the region through adherence to the resolutions of the United Nations and its charter.

The paper concludes: By all standards, the visit of leader al-Asad to Egypt with its great results was a regional event that declared itself from the first moment. From now on, no one in the world can ignore what Egypt and Syria say in defense of the peace issue and in service of pan-Arab interests. What Syria and Egypt say is decisive to this region, and the Arab nation's decision is what counts. The decision is in the hands of the Arabs; they will not allow any body to make decisions on their behalf.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Holds Press Conference 18 Jul

LD1807164190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, today at the Storey Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a press conference which was attended by domestic and foreign journalists. According to the military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] the minister of defense began the press conference by speaking about the political and military situation of the country, the achievements of the national reconciliation policy, and the activities of the Armed Forces to dislodge and abort the attacks and violations of the enemies of the country. Afterward journalists asked questions in connection with the subject which were duly answered by General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar.

President Issues Decree on Constitutional Council

LD1807164390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The presidential office reported that a decree by the president of Afghanistan, Esteemed Najibullah concerning the appointment of the chairman and members of the Constitution Council was issued as follows:

Decree of the president regarding the appointment of the chairman and members of the Constitution Council:

In line with Article 125 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the appointment of the Constitution Council is approved as follows:

1. Esteemed Qanunpoh [lawyer's title] 'Abdul Wahab as chairman of the Constitution Council.
2. Esteemed Qanunwal [lawyer's title] Muhammad Akram Abqari, as vice chairman of the Constitution Council.
3. Esteemed 'Abdul Fatah Sekandari, as secretary of the Constitution council.

Members:

1. Esteemed Abdul Karim Shadan, president of the Special Court of National Security.
2. Esteemed Mir Azizolhaq Zaaifi, president of the general penal bureau of the Supreme Court.
3. Esteemed Qanunwal Dr. Muhammad Tahir Boragay.
4. Esteemed Qanunpal [lawyer's title] Muhammad Esma'il Qasemiar.
5. Esteemed Pohand [academic title] Wadir Safi, president of the Faculty of Law and Political Science.
6. Esteemed Pohand 'Abdullah Haqaiqi.
7. Esteemed Moa'win Sar Mohaqeq [academic title] Najibullah Qaderi, lecturer in the University of Islamic Sciences.

With the issuing of this decree the previous composition of the Constitution Council has been rendered invalid.

[Signed] Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Minister Downplays Differences

PM1807155490 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 15 Jul 90 p 8

[Ahmad al-Dus report: "Afghan Mujahidin Defense Minister Tells 'UKAZ: Afghan Jihad Will Continue"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ Shaykh Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi told 'UKAZ that the jihad will continue until Afghanistan is freed from the claws of communism. He pointed out that there are no differences among the mujahidin factions and that they are united in one aim.

He said that the Western media exaggerate the differences between the mujahidin to weaken their determination, belittle the jihad's importance, and stop Muslims from supporting it.

His excellency also praised the support for the Afghan mujahidin from the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, emphasizing that the Afghan people will not forget the Kingdom's steadfast stances in their regard over the years.

We have a committee which represents the people, includes the various factions, and is committed to shura [consultation]. We have maintained this situation for 11 years now, and an Afghan mujahidin government was formed. So we do not need another conference at which the factions and tribes meet. We—men and women, young and old—are united in one aim, namely, the jihad for God's cause until the return of Muslim Afghanistan.

What I would like to point out here is that we do not need solutions from the United States or Europe. This, because, as we know, the solution is in our hands, and it is to continue the jihad and the call [al-Da'wah] for the sake of Islam, the homeland, the territory, and property. Our hope is to achieve victory and to defeat the communists.

With regard to the truth of news agency reports of major disagreements among the mujahidin factions, Shaykh Mohammadi said: What do you expect from agencies that are controlled by Zionism and communism and that spread their poisons among the ignorant and foolish of the world. I do not deny the existence of differences, but they do not extend as far as disagreement, since we are united in one aim and are all working hard to achieve it.

The battles are continuing despite the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam. I urge anyone who wants to know the truth to come to us in the jihad arena to see for himself that there are no disagreements among us obstructing the attainment of our aim.

With regard to the Defense Ministry's role and future plans, he said: The Defense Ministry is now busy forming shura councils in the governorates. These councils include the field commanders.

The Defense Ministry assumes the task of providing military equipment and economic supplies to the shura councils which, in turn, distribute them among the mujahidin. It also devises military tactics in the battlefield. God willing, we will continue to organize military operations until victory is achieved and until Afghanistan is freed from the hands of infidels and apostates.

The defense minister pointed out that recent assassinations among mujahidin ranks were the work of Russian intelligence and the ruling regime's intelligence, KHAD, whose elements infiltrate the mujahidin and perpetrate these dirty acts to foment sedition among the ranks.

His excellency emphasized that the jihad has continued since the Soviets' departure, just as it continued before their occupation. This is because we are fighting communism, and we will continue to do so until Afghanistan is freed from its claws. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Greets Iraqi Leader on Anniversary

LD1807084490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 17, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], has communicated a message of congratulations to Baghdad addressed to His Excellency Saddam Husayn [words indistinct] on the occasion of the 22nd founding anniversary of the Republic of Iraq.

While expressing sincere congratulations, it is stated in the message that the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Iraq [word indistinct] on the basis of Islamic principles and the national interests between the peoples of both countries leading to further strengthening of the world peace and security.

Similarly, a congratulatory message has been sent (?from) 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the RA addressed to His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Iraq on that occasion.

Bangladesh

Doctors Strike To Protest Draft Health Bill

BK1907014890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Dhaka, July 18 (AFP)—Some 10,000 doctors across Bangladesh refused to treat private patients Wednesday [18 July] at the start of a three-day campaign against a proposed new health policy. C.M. Delwar Rana, vice president of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) said the doctors were protesting a draft health bill, which they believed was a "conspiracy to privatise the health sector."

Opposition leader Abdur Rab meanwhile charged that the Health Ministry had leaked the draft bill in a bid to foil it. Mr. Rab described the move as a "conspiracy by the people within the Health Ministry."

However, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the leaked bill had not been prepared by the Health Ministry, adding "it is not proper to make a statement on the issue."

"The (protest) campaign is also aimed at realising our long-standing 23-point demands, including higher allocation for health sector in the national budget and repeal of the proposal to do away with free treatment in government hospitals," a BMA official said. The official said the proposed policy would restrict private practice, sharply reducing their earnings, as well as limiting expensive specialist treatment to a handful of people who can afford it. Most government doctors, including those in military hospitals, treat patients privately after regular office hours to boost their incomes. They charge each patient between 100 and 200 taka (three and six dollars).

Officials said the new health policy would affect only a small number of doctors, and those barred from private practice would be compensated.

Mr. Ahmed said the government would formulate a national health policy to ensure adequate health care for Bangladesh's 110 million people. "The proposed health policy would also embody steps for the welfare of the doctors and other concerned officials," he said, adding that the government was considering the policy, which would be discussed at a cabinet meeting and placed later in the Parliament in form of a bill. He said the final outline of the policy had not yet been developed.

Emergency Meeting Called To End Radio Strike

BK1707031990 Hong Kong AFP in English 2050 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] Dhaka, July 16 (AFP)—The Information Ministry on Monday [16 July] said it has summoned an emergency meeting to discuss the week-long work stoppage at state-run Radio Bangladesh by employees in the programme and news sections. The meeting Tuesday [17 July] would "review the situation arising out of the work stoppage of the officers" of the radio, the ministry said.

"The government hopes that normalcy will return (to the radio) soon," it added.

The radio continued to play recorded music Monday. Some 750 employees in Dhaka and elsewhere again stayed off work from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (0000 to 0800 GMT), a striker said, adding that it was in response to a call by their union to protest bureaucratic delays in resolving problems involving promotion and grades.

The issue came up for discussion twice over the weekend in parliament, where Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that the government had deputied a retired civil servant to hold talks with the strikers to bring an end to the impasse. Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Shelly also told the house late Sunday [15 July] that

negotiations were in an advanced stage and that the government was prepared to accept the legitimate grievances of the strikers.

Meanwhile, radio announcers said every half hour that due to the stoppage by the programme producers, they were playing recorded music instead of scheduled programmes. The three scheduled news bulletins during the strike hours were "just repeats" of the last overnight bulletin, a radio official said.

India

President's Rule Proclaimed in Jammu, Kashmir

BK1807132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The state of Jammu and Kashmir comes under president's rule as six months of governor's rule expires today. A presidential proclamation to this effect was issued in New Delhi today. The proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution says that all functions of the state government and the powers vested with the governor have been assumed by the president. It also declared that all powers of the state legislature shall be exercisable by the parliament. The president's rule has been imposed following a report by the governor on the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir. This is for the second time that the state has been brought under president's rule.

Singh To Pay Official Visit to USSR 23-26 Jul

BK1807113490 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0919 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Official spokesman's statement dated 13.7.90 on P.M.'s [prime minister's] visit to the Soviet Union:

The prime minister, Shri [Mr.] Vishwanath Pratap Singh, will be on an official visit to the Soviet Union from the 23rd to 26th of July. He will be accompanied by a high level delegation, including three cabinet ministers. They are, minister of finance, Prof. Madhu Dandavate; minister of commerce, Arun Nehru; and minister of external affairs, Mr. I.K. Gujral. A number of senior officials will also accompany him. During his visit to the Soviet Union, he will be going to Moscow and Tashkent. [passage omitted]

Applauds Gorbachev's Efforts

BK1807135390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that India-Soviet cooperation has been a stabilizing factor in our region and the world. Mr. Singh, in an interview to the Soviet weekly NEW TIMES, applauded Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to create a more dynamic and progressive society. He said there is sufficient vigor in India-Soviet relations to keep pace with and benefit from such a change. The prime minister, who is leaving on an official visit to the Soviet Union on Monday [23 July], said the success of perestroyka would lead to even better opportunities for bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The prime minister said India welcomes the changes on the global scene, including the improvement of the Soviet Union's relations with Asia, Western countries, and China.

Urges 'Total' Party Integration

BK1807161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that people's initiatives should supplement government's efforts to solve the difficult problems like Punjab and Kashmir. Speaking at the first meeting of the new office-bearers of the Janata Dal in New Delhi today, Mr. Singh appealed to the party workers to mobilize public opinion against hoarders [of essential commodities] and black marketeers so that the rising prices can be effectively checked. The meeting was also attended by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, and the industry minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, in their capacity as senior outgoing office-bearers.

Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Jaipal Reddy, said that the prime minister put himself and ministerial colleagues at the bidding of the party. Mr. V.P. Singh called for the total integration of all constituent units which have merged to form the Janata Dal.

The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, said that for the first time the government was trying to implement all its election promises and has achieved success in this under the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh. The party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, emphasized that the party should be involved while taking major policy decisions by the government.

The Janata Dal president, Mr. Bommai, has removed Mr. Shakilur Rahman from the post of the vice president of the party on charges of indiscipline. Mr. Rahman had in a letter to the press criticized the party leadership for not consulting him on the recent political developments. While rejecting Mr. Rahman's complaints, Mr. Bommai took exception to the tone of the letter and the way it was publicized.

'Powerful Bombs' Explode in Kashmir Offices

BK1907075690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two powerful bombs exploded in the office of the divisional commissioner and the deputy commissioner of Jammu this morning. While no one was injured in the blast at the office of the divisional commissioner, four persons were injured in the deputy commissioner's office. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that those injured in the blast include three government officials and one civilian.

7 Killed, 15 Injured in Punjab Terrorist Violence

BK1907104590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, four security force personnel and three terrorists were killed and 15 security force personnel injured in separate incidents since last night. The incidents took place in the districts of Gurdaspur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, and Ferozepore.

Iran

Karrubi on U.S. Congressmen, Economic Crimes

LD1807143990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] In its open session today, the Islamic Consultative Council continued to discuss the draft bill on punishing economic saboteurs and approved the punishments set down in the single-article clauses of this draft bill. Our correspondent reports on today's open session:

[Correspondent] In this morning's Majles open session, the speaker of the Majles said: In a message to the leader of the Hypocrites [Monafeqin, the Mojaheddin-e Khalq Organization], 162 U.S. congressmen have attacked Islamic Iran and expressed strong support for the Hypocrites' organization. He added: We thank and praise almighty God that whatever happens, the innocence and justness of the Islamic revolution and its anti-American and anti-imperialist nature are more exposed to the people of the world. In contrast, the mercenary nature of the enemies of the revolution and their dependence on big powers and notably on the great Satan, the United States, is proved more than ever. And this is at a time when that organization, in its efforts to attract innocent young people and lead them to deviations during the year 1360 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] concentrated a large part of its propaganda on portraying the officials of the [Islamic Republic's] system as dependent on the United States.

The speaker of the Majles went on to describe the stand adopted by the U.S. congressmen as unrealistic, and said: Their threat is not important to us and the Islamic Republic of Iran's system—relying on God and the guidance of our dear leader as well as on the all-round support of the people—will continue its movement all the more resolutely and steadfastly.

During this session some amendments to the details of the draft bill concerning the punishment of economic saboteurs were discussed by deputies and some were passed. According to the single article of this draft bill, committing any of the deeds set down in the clauses of that single article are offences that are subjected to punishments attached to this law.

—Sabotaging the monetary or foreign exchange system of the country such as minting coins, forgery or printing bank notes, or importing or distributing these in large quantities, both domestically and abroad.

—Sabotagiang the distribution of essential commodities such as charging high prices for foodstuffs or other basic commodities and hording foodstuffs or other essential commodities in large quantities.

—Prepurchasing in large quantities of agricultural products and other products needed by the people with the aim of monopolizing [their sale] or creating shortages in the supply of these products.

—Sabotaging the country's production system such as making large profits from the illegal sale of technical equipment and primary products in the free [black] market or abusing obligations related to these or taking and giving major bribes related to production or receiving permits for production in cases which will cause deviations in the production policies of the country.

—Major smuggling of foreign exchanges, national heritages and works of art, or any other [national] wealth; abusing the system with the aim of smuggling these goods out of the country, from any part of the country will be considered as smuggling even if the goods have not left the country, and all foreign exchange, national heritages, and other wealth intended to be smuggled abroad will be considered as smuggled goods and will be confiscated by the government.

Mohtashemi Warns Against Compromise With U.S.

LD1807171790 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, July 18 (IRNA)—[passage omitted] Majles deputy from Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was the first pre-agenda speaker [at the Majles open session on 18 July] who warned against attempts made by some people inside and outside the country to push the Islamic Republic into a compromise with the U.S.

"Any doubt about the need to struggle against the U.S. means being enslaved by the Great Satan and losing the honor and the life the Islamic Revolution has brought to this country and the whole Islamic ummah (nation)."

"All our misfortunes come from the U.S. and the duty of the Islamic Republic and revolutionary Muslims is to strike at the U.S. like a thunder in areas attacked by it (U.S.)," Mohtashemi said.

The former interior minister cautioned that "the U.S. has been lurking to shatter our determination to struggle and intends to attack us with armies of great and little satans, from inside and outside the country.

"The U.S. will have no mercy on those who are dreaming of development under its auspices and who have even consented to a cultural frivolity for this purpose."

He also termed any negligence towards making a distinction between the pure Muhammadan Islam and American style of Islam as a "great danger threatening the perpetuation of the revolution and the Islamic system of government."

Elsewhere in his speech, Mohtashemi attacked the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for their capitalistic policies vis-a-vis the Third World. "The mission of these two bodies, since their establishment, has been to transfer the consequences of the Western capitalism to the Third World," he said. He said the two centers' proposals to those countries in need of loans to capitalize their economic system have served to entice those welcoming the proposals into a trap set by world capitalism over the past few decades.

The third speaker of the session was Mohammad Reza Bahmani from Ramhormuz constituency (in southern Iran) who said the goals, programmes and promises of the officials to the people will come true only through the sound implementation of the first five-year plan.

"If management is not improved, and powerful supervision of the law is not excercised, the goals of the plan will certainly not be achieved," he warned.

Bahmani urged President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to consider viewpoints of the opponents, scholars and experienced experts, and not determine the fate of a nation and a country by relying on some figures without study. "Priorities should be considered in the investments," he added.

He also called on the Majles deputies to strengthen the Audit Court in order to prevent violations by certain officials.

Deputy of the Caspian city of Sari, Ezzatollah Damadi, was another speaker who regretted that major agricultural and livestock products were still being imported 12 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution. He attributed this to "incorrect economic policy-making" and said the Caspian province of Mazandaran is capable of supplying a major part of domestic needs for such products.

"Today we can easily tackle many problems of the country particularly in industrial and production areas through the contribution of the private sector."

Damadi also called for further attention in selecting managers, and for abandoning of "narrow-sightedness".

Ahmad Rahbari from Razan, Shara and Khamenin constituencies was the last pre-agenda speaker who stressed the preservation of the values of the Islamic revolution in political and international position-takings, and warned against the danger of compromise and inclination of certain so-called revolutionary and Islamic states to the U.S. Referring to the burden of inflation and high prices on the society he said these pressures arise from the uncontrolled economic problems, and lack of planning for a correct distribution system and for increasing production.

Commentary Assesses Iraqi Threats Against Kuwait

LD1907125590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Station commentary: "Iraqi Threats Against Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi regime accused the Kuwaiti Government of stealing Iraq's oil from the Rumaylah field for the past 10 years, and particularly during the war. In a letter from Iraq, to the Arab League, the amount of stolen oil mentioned is about 2.5 billion dollars. [passage omitted]

According to political experts in the region, Iraqi threats and claims are being raised at a time when the country is going through an economic crisis and is incapable of rebuilding the damage left from the war period. On the basis of unofficial statistics, Iraq's current foreign debt is about $70 billion. Half of it is owed to the Arab oil producers and particularly to the Arab governments in the Persian Gulf region. Not only is Iraq unable to repay its debt—especially to the Arab governments—but it expects them to grant additional aid for economic reconstruction as well.

The note Iraq sent to the Arab League, says in part: About a year ago Iraq asked for these debts to be written off, but the lending governments have not agreed. In this letter the Iraqi foreign minister asked for a plan similar to the Marshall Plan to be drawn up to rebuild Iraq.

Iraq and Kuwait have always had a border dispute. Before 1958-1959, when the monarchy ruled in Iraq, the regime considered Kuwait as part of Iraqi territory. Even after Kuwait's independence in 1961, the new Iraqi regime did not abandon its territorial claims, and stationed forces along the two countries' borders. This created great tension. Even though Iraq recognized Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity two years later, their border dispute and particularly Iraqi domination of Bubian and Warbah islands was never resolved. Iraq needs these two islands as entry points to the Persian Gulf. In the course of the war it used the entire island of Bubian.

After the [Iran-Iraq] cease-fire in 1988, the Kuwaiti prime minister went to Baghdad to find a solution to the border problem, but he returned home empty-handed. On this basis some political circles in the Middle East believe that the objective of Iraq's political attack on Kuwait yesterday is not limited to seeking such economic gains as writing off the debt or obtaining another sum of about $2.5 billion from Kuwait as the price for the Rumaylah oil sale in the past 10 years alone. Instead it might be dragged into another arena, particularly because the Iraqi regime in its letter to the Arab League accused Kuwait of military aggression.

At any rate, if the Iraqi Government's policies are implemented within the framework of this country's strategy to gain more power in the Persian Gulf region, we should expect that those governments, which until yesterday faced economic difficulties for offering financial aid to Iraq, might have to undertake new commitments toward Iraq.

Majles Approves Punishment for Economic Saboteurs

LD1807193690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] In this afternoon's session of the Islamic Majles, details of the bill on punishing economic saboteurs were reviewed and the bill was aproved by the deputies.

On the basis of the law on punishing economic saboteurs, receiving large quantities of money as capital investment participation [mozarebeh] from real or corporate persons which results in the abuse of people's deposits or sabotage of the economic system [of the country], and also any group action taken to sabotage the country's export system in any way—such as those guilty of fraud in foreign exchange repayment undertakings or fraud in pricing of export goods—are deemed to be crimes and offenses and persons committing those offenses will be subject to the punishments set out in this law.

According to the law, if the sabotage was committed with the intention of challenging the Islamic Republic's economic system or striking a blow at it, the perpetrator will be executed, and in other cases imprisoned from five to 20 years. In any of those cases the court will order the confiscation of all financial assets which were acquired unlawfully.

Apart from a financial penalty and imprisonment, the court has the right to punish the perpetrator with 20 to 70 lashes in public.

In sabotage cases not considered as major in any clauses of the law, and in which the sabotage was not great, or not repeated many times, the perpetrator will be punished with two to five years imprisonment and confiscation of all assets acquired unlawfully as a cash penalty.

It is worth mentioning that none of the punishments set out in the law can be suspended. Execution, financial penalties and deprivation of government service or service in government foundations, cannot be reduced or abated. The investigation of the said crimes and offenses are within the competence of the Islamic Revolution Courts, which are dutybound to investigatge major offenses immediately and out of turn.

All laws contradicing this law, apart from the laws which stipulate a more severe punishment, have been announced as void.

In that session also the bill on the Islamic Republic of Iran's security forces, which had been rejected by the Guardians Council, was raised and amendments to it were approved by the deputies.

Also according to our correspondent, the future session of the Islamic Majles will be held on Tuesday 21 August after the Majles holidays.

Nature of U.S. Iran Policy 'Not Changeable'

LD1907101290 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in a commentary Thursday [19 July] that the prospects of peace talks between Iran and Iraq now seems to be clearer than it was before. It said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had indicated that idea in a meeting with members of the Experts Assembly earlier this week, and commented that Iraq seems to have concluded that it will not gain anything by introducing irrelevant topics in the process of peace talks.

Commenting also on a letter by 162 U.S. Congressmen in which they have supported the outlawed Monafeqin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), it said that the document "shows the true face of the United States after that show of philanthropy which Washington put up in relation with the earthquake in Iran."

The daily said: "The United States is again showing its true face to the people of Iran and by supporting the most savage terrorist group has proved that the nature of the U.S. Governments and the policies of Washington towards the Islamic revolution are not changeable."

"The people of Iran take pride in being able to recognize the true face of the U.S.A. no matter how the U.S. should mask it," it stressed.

"Washington has not deceased [as received] even for one single moment from criminal acts against the people of Iran and this time by voicing support for the Monafeqin (MKO) it has in fact demonstrated the depth of its spite against the Iranian nation," said JOMHURI ESLAMI.

On the same topic the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said Thursday: "The support extended to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) by some 162 American Congressmen on Tuesday [17 July] was not something unexpected as far as political circles here are concerned.

"The U.S. Congress enmity towards the Islamic Republic dates back to the very day this republic was born," it added.

TEHRAN TIMES continued, "but rendering support to an organization whose warp and woof are woven in terrorism and law-skirting activiies, by a legislative body supposed to defend democracy makes a laughing stock of the American Congress."

"The MKO makes no bones about going public on its terrorist activities and is indeed even proud of them. It

has time and again admitted to having launched terrorist operations. Besides the MKO is a staunch follower of the Leninistic ideology which gives it a free hand to justify any means in the attainment of set of ends. Now how do the so-called champions of democracy come to support such an organization? Perhaps the grudge against Iran justifies such a shameful stance too," added the editorial.

"The American Congressmen in their letter to the MKO went so far as even criticizing a report last year by a special envoy of the United Nations Reynaldo Galindo Pohl for its findings to the contrary on human rights violations in Iran. This attack on a U.N. fact-finding mission and report is but a direct challenge aimed to weaken the world body and the person of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar," wrote the paper.

"Reliable sources here even believe that Perez de Cuellar has been recently pushed by certain American pressure groups and the U.S. Government not to send Galindo Pohl to Iran for a reassessment of human rights in the country," concluded TEHRAN TIMES.

Another Aftershock Jolts Rudbar 19 Jul

LD1907075490 Tehran IRNA in English 0559 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 19 IRNA—An after-shock with a magnitude of 4.9 on the open-ended Richter Scale shook Rudbar in Gilan Province early Thursday morning [19 July], reported the Geophysics Center of Tehran University. According to the center the epicenter of the after-shock which occured at 06:06 hours local time (02:36 GMT) was 200 kms northwest of Tehran, site of the devastating quake of June 21.

Hundreds of after-shocks have been reported since the powerful quake hit the two provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, causing further landslide and minor destruction. Some 40,000 people were killed by the June 21 quake in Gilan and Zanjan and half a million became homeless.

Oil Minister Returns, 'Optimistic' About OPEC

NC1907065290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Petroleum Minister Mr. Aqazadeh last night returned from his visit to the oil-exporting countries of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Algeria, and Libya and stated that a general request for an oil price of $20 per barrel will be made at next week's OPEC session in Geneva. Speaking to correspondents, he said that he is thus optimistic about next week's OPEC session and attaches special importance to it.

During his trip, our petroleum minister met with the heads of the UAE and Algeria, and Jallud, member of the Libyan Command Council. He also met with the three countries' petroleum ministers with whom he discussed the adoption of a common stand to increase oil prices.

Mr. Aqazadeh commented on his talks with the officials of the three countries and said: During these talks, views were exchanged on OPEC's other problems and on long-term programs. Thanking the Persian Gulf countries, he said: All OPEC members have worked to raise the price of oil and their views are governed by unanimity and sincerity.

Foreign Ministry Regrets Amal-Hizballah Clashes

LD1807194590 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—In a statement released here today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed deep regret at the renewed clashes between two Lebanese Shiite groups, Amal and Hizballah. The clashes began after [as received] PLO deployed 600 of its militiamen between Amal and Hizballah in an apparent attempt to stop the inter-Shiite fighting.

"The unfortunate clashes between the two brethren and Muslim groups of Amal and Hizballah in southern Lebanon put Iranians and all the other committed Muslims of the world into deep sorrow.

"In view of the escalated attacks by the Zionist regime on southern Lebanon and various regional and international plots which make it necessary for all Muslim forces to expand their cooperation, the bloody clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah have actually harmed the sentiments of the Muslim and oppressed people of Lebanon."

In addition, the statement said, the clashes have in fact benefited those opportunists who were trying to fish in the troubled water.

Elsewhere in the statement, the Foreign Ministry vowed to continue its mediation efforts as before to put an end to the fractricide through keeping close contacts with the rival groups and Syrian officials.

It expressed hope that the problem would come to an end as soon as possible owing to the joint efforts of Iran and Syria.

Anniversary of Resolution 598 Acceptance Noted

NC1807064590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0442 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] Two years ago today the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598. This resolution, which is the eighth and final UN resolution on the Iran-Iraq war, was approved within the framework of the persistent UN efforts to end the imposed war.

Resolution 598 differed from earlier resolutions and became a focal point since it contained several positive points related to the desires of the Islamic Republic and

the establishment of full stability and peace in the region. Resolution 598, which consists of a preamble and 10 paragraphs, deals with the most important and most sensitive aspects of the imposed war, among which are the acceleration of the withdrawal of forces behind international borders, the release and exchange of prisoners of war, and investigations into who began the war.

Following the establishment of the cease-fire, this resolution is considered to be the basis for the establishment of peace in the region and so far several rounds of talks on its implementation have been held. These talks, which are held alternately in Geneva and New York under the supervision of the UN secretary general or his special representative, are aimed at attaining joint agreement on ways to implement Resolution 598.

In relation with this, the UN secretary general has put forward several plans and initiatives aimed at accelerating the talks. None, however, has been able to remove the existing obstacles. The one-sided interpretation of the contents of the resolution and the efforts to change the order of priority of its paragraphs, as well as the propounding of issues that are outside the framework of the resolution and attempts to link these issues with the talks, are among the points that have turned into major obstacles delaying the implementation of the resolution.

Iraq's indifference toward the secretary general's initiatives and efforts and its trampling on the agenda of the talks, which is always prepared very carefully and with a long introductory statement, have rendered the talks fruitless. Iraq's actions came at a time when it was expected that, in view of the contents of the resolution and the enthusiasm shown for it by international political circles, the full implementation of the resolution in a short period at the initiative of the UN secretary general and on the basis of his timetable would restore full and lasting security and stability to the region after many years. But now, two years later, only half of the first paragraph of the resolution, which calls for the cease-fire, has been implemented and the other paragraphs and obligations remain unfulfilled.

At present, Iraq's refusal to withdraw from territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran it occupies is the most significant obstacle to the implementation of the resolution. While the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the withdrawal of forces behind recognized international borders on the basis of Paragraph 1 of Resolution 598 as the most urgent step toward the establishment of peace and security, the Iraqi regime is unwillingly [ba bimeyli] repeating its stands. In relation with this, the UN secretary general and the Security Council separately and repeatedly emphasized the need for the full and rapid implementation of Resolution 598 on the basis of international law and especially on the basis of the principles of respect for territorial integrity, the nonoccupation of territory by resorting to military force, and the inviolability of recognized international borders. The UN secretary general says in relation with this that withdrawal is necessary and should be implemented not only on the basis of Resolution 598 but also on the basis of the UN Charter and international principles.

Although the situation of neither war nor peace continues, nevertheless for some time now the talks for the implementation of the resolution have become more active. The exchange of letters between the two countries' presidents and the possibility of their meeting if the talks at the expert level prove successful is a positive and constructive phenomenon toward the implementation of Resolution 598. The unprecedented exchange of letters, which took place some months ago, is considered to be the element that paved the way for creating the atmosphere of understanding that exists in the talks and is expected to culminate in a lasting agreement.

Within this context, the recent meeting between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers in the presence of the UN secretary general is a sign of progress, and there are hopes that current conditions will result in the removal of the obstacles to the implementation of the resolution.

Cuban Ambassador Meets With Besharati

LD1707183290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] The Cuban ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran today met Mr. Besharati, senior deputy minister of foreign affairs. At that meeting the Cuban ambassador sumbitted a report on the help by that country to the quake victims of Gilan and Zanjan, as well as the activities of Cuba's medical team in those regions. He also called for the preservation and expansion of bilateral and international relations between the two countries.

Mr. Besharati, meanwhile, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is appreciative of the leader and nation of Cuba. He emphasized that relations between the two countries should expand as much as possible.

Majles Defense Chairman on Security Forces Merger

LD1807172690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] had an open session yesterday. In this session a number of the honorable deputies made pre-agenda speeches. First, Nabiollah Raji, the honorable deputy from Na'in, referring to the issue of the choice of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the illustrious leader of the Islamic Revolution, by the Assembly of Experts, said in a part of his speech:

[Begin Raji recording] The convening of the annual meeting of the Assembly of Experts is an appropriate opportunity to once again express my congratulations and reiterate my appreciation for the vigilant and wise action of the nation's Experts in choosing His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic revolution after the demise of his eminence the imam. Now, after more than a year has passed, the wisdom and

appropriateness of this choice has become clearer. Without doubt this choice was the most decisive guarantee for the continuation of the brilliant path of his eminence the imam and the pursuance of the goals of the Islamic revolution and the international Islamic uprising. During this period we have clearly seen the prophet-like words and deeds of the imam in the words, messages and deeds of the esteemed leader of the revolution. We witnessed how this worthy scion of the imam and of Islam defends the faith, glory and strength of Islam, the revolution and the country against the bullies of the age, led by the United States. His remarks in connection with the issue of direct talks [with the United States] and those who were in favor of talks and relations with the United States, revealing the hollowness and absurdity of the thoughts of the simple-minded and the frightened, are still reverbrating in our ears. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The merging of the security forces such as [as heard] the Islamic Revolution Committee, the Police Force of the Islamic Republic, the Gendarmerie and other forces was discussed in the Islamic Consultative Assembly sometime ago. The issue of the merging of the security forces, about which a great deal of discussion and research has been carried out for a long time, is among one of the sensitive issues which has given rise to intense differences of opinion about its outcome. Concerning this issue, in response to our correspondent's question Montajabnia [chairman of the Majles Defense Committee and the representative of supreme jurisconsult in the police force] said:

[Begin recording] [Montajabnia] You know that during the past few months, toward the end of the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], the esteemed government presented a draft bill to the Islamic Consultative Assembly to merge the three security forces and to form a single security force. This bill was discussed in the Joint Interior and Defense Affairs Committee and was approved after some time with certain amendments and was presented to the Majles [for final vote]. In the Majles it was also subjected to careful discussion and scrutiny by the deputies. The deputies confronted the issue with intense sensitivity. The experts presented their views, both in the committee and in the open session. Finally, the bill was approved after numerous amendments and now it is being studied by the esteemed Guardians Council. They have not yet announced their final view. Apparently they will have some minor amendments but they have not objected to the major points of the bill.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. Montajabnia. This bill has been under study for a long time, especially at the expert level. There have balso been some differences of opinion about its positive and negative outcome. Please tell us something about the view of those who were for and against the bill.

[Montajabnia] The fact that the continuation of the work of the present security forces of our country, namely the police, the Gendarmerie and the Committee, in their present form is not in the interest of the system and of the revolution and that one should find a fundamental solution for this issue is something that all are agreed upon. I do not think that any one of the experts and those who are interested in the revolution and the system have any doubt concerning the fact that the multiplicity of forces—especially parallel forces with similar responsibilities—is in the interest of the revolution. The issue of duplication of work, the issue of wastage of resources, and so forth, is something which is quite clear. All are agreed on this issue. However, there are differences of views about solving this issue and this difficulty. From the start, one view was that we should merge the three forces in one and form a single force which would have unity of command and unity of practice, which would prevent infringement [of other force's responsibilities], which would economize on the use of resources and capabilities, and which also ensures that the forces will be more and better engaged in the task of ensuring society's security.

There were other views in this connection too. The esteemed cabinet took the initiative and approved and presented this draft bill to the Majles to merge these three forces and to form a single force which would ensure the security of society. In various discussion which we had in the committee and in the open session, even those who were against the draft bill were in agreement regarding the first principle which I referred to [that the present formation of the forces is not satisfactory], but they said that perhaps in the present conditions it may not be wise to disrupt these forces. They had a number of worries, including the worry of what would happen to the forces of the Islamic Revolution Committee—which are our valiant guards and which from the first moments of the victory of the revolution have been in the service of the Islamic revolution—what will happen to them, what will their fate be. This was one source of anxiety to a number of friends. Others were worried about whether or not the order and discipline which exists in the police and the gendarmerie and their experience and record of service will be safeguarded after approval of this bill. Finally, whether after approving this bill we will be able to safeguard the security of the society better than before, or whether we will not be able to do so. These were a number of worries of some gentlemen which led to their opposition to the bill. However, all were agreed about the facat that something had to be done to the forces.

After a great deal of discussion and criticisms which were made in the committee and in the open session, finally the Majles decided to approve the bill with certain amendments to it. We are sure that in view of the amendments which have been made and the interest which is shown in the bill, both by the Majles and by the esteemed government, and especially in view of the supervision which will be exercised by the illustrious leader over the military and security forces—and his eminence is their supreme commander and his eminence should appoint the commander of the security forces, as

well as the officials in charge of the ideological-political bureau, and security and intelligence officials—on the basis of the bill approved by the Majles. With the supervision and; attention which will be paid by his eminence and the Armed Forces' General Command we are sure that there will be no difficulty and that it will be in the interest of the system, the revolution and the security forces. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Air Force Commander Speaks on 'Self-Sufficiency'

LD1807201990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force took part in the graduation ceremonies of pilots from the Parvaz [Flight] university at Esfahan's Martyr Baba'i Garrisoni. He said training is fundamental to self-sufficiency.

According to an IRNA Report, in the ceremonies General Sattari said that the main asset for achieving self-sufficiency is expert and skilled manpower. He added: The new training methods of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force are compatible with world standards, and the efficiency of our country's pilots, in comparison with other countries of the world, is very satisfactory and outstanding.

Ahmad Khomeyni Explains Rushdie Decree to Youth

LD1807204190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] This morning, in a meeting with the winners of the competition, A Letter to the Imam, and the officials of the center for the intellectual development of children and teenagers, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslmin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the need for providing a clear picture of the events of the history of the Islamic Revolution for young people, who were not present during the scenes of the Islamic Revolution. He said: The young people of the revolutionary generation are in need of having a clear picture of the struggles of his eminence the imam, because they were not personally present in the stages of the revolution and are unaware of the issues existing before the revolution and the early events after the revolution.

Referring to the fact that the future of the Islamic Revolution will be in the hands of today's youth, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni described the need for the clarification of the imam's line to the youth and answering their questions as a necessity. He said: For instance, it should be explained to young people why his eminence the imam issued his fatwa [religious decree] against Salman Rushdie and whether the issue of Salman Rushdie was the issue of a single individual or whether it was a profound Islamic issue for the sake of which the imam stood up all alone and issued the fatwa for the execution of Rushdie. It should be made clear to them that although this issue is an historical issue, at the same time it demonstrates an aspect of the culture of struggle and jihad of the Islamic Revolution. If our system only looked at expediency, it would have never risen against the arrogant world, and so many centers of struggle against world arrogance which have received their inspiration from the line of the imam would not have existed.

At the end, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: Our revolution has always been a target of vindictive moves by world arrogance, but the presence of the people and the youth on the scenes of struggle neutralized the arrogant conspiracies, and the revolution remained firm. All believed that if the imam did not have a physical presence on the stage of the revolution, the revolution would be destroyed because his leadership had a special charisma and importance. However, as the result of your endeavors and those of the rest of the people, it was proved that such analyses were false and that our Islamic Revolution will continue its path.

Correction to Eligibility for Assembly Ratified

LD1707161890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Eligibility for Assembly Ratified," published in the 17 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 53:

Column two, second paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...approved that the Guardian Council jurisconsults are authorized [to determine the suitability of the candidates for the Assembly of Experts]. Afterward, a proposal.... (rewording for clarity)

**Asgar-Owladi Editorial on Stable Revolution

90AS0141A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 May 90

[12 May pp 1, 12]

[Text] Part I

Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi

Thanks be to God that His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, who is from the sacred line of the dear prophet of Islam (peace upon him) and trained by the [late] imam of our Islamic revolution, has been successful to usher in new phases in continuation of the undisputed leadership of our passed imam.

Now, in appreciation of his leadership, which is in fact the completion of thanking the main source of blessings, we shall discuss excerpts of some of his important guidance on the occasion of Workers' and Teachers' Days and in commemoration of the martyred teacher, the late Ayatollah Motahari: "In Nicaragua, although it is a very poor country, a small country with a small population and weak national resources, a government came to power. America gave so much money to its anti-revolutionaries and exerted so much pressure on them from various corners until they were forced to

submit. Well, those miserable people in the government did not have a strong popular support. They did not have adequate tolerance for pressure and from the start had been dependent on another place outside power. They failed and had to move out...."

This was a short and wise analysis of the damage to a specific revolution of a nation and people who are limited in population, small in land size, weak in resources, and poor in economic possessions. Here, It seems that the exalted leader of the revolution is teaching all the Islamic states and God-seeking, Islam-searching, oppressed people that revolution is safe from harm and remains strong when it has the above characteristics. The characteristics which have resulted in the strength of the pillars of the Islamic revolution and which have served as very strong wave-breakers to withstand the artificial waves created by global arrogance are as follows:

1. Strong popular base on which the revolution and the regime are dependent, and the leadership must have the highest confidence of the people.

2. Strong faith in the everlasting existence of God, inspiration, prophecy, guardianship, and exclusive rule of God on man and the world.

3. Seeking the possibility of exerting pressure on the enemies of the revolution and realization of being prone to exerted pressures.

4. Non-reliance on any block and foreign power with the acceptance of (There is no power and might greater than that of God [Koranic verse]).

5. Not being terrified of the artificial and forged might of the powers and the superpowers.

Before we investigate and begin to learn from these five characteristics, it seems necessary to note the worries that nowadays befall nations, regimes, powers, and superpowers from the speed and unpredictability of events which have occurred during the past couple of years. And, also, be aware of the line of the late imam evident in the remarks of the leader of our revolution. It is in this speech that the noble line of leadership is depicted in accordance with the conditions of the time and we are tasked with active diplomacy in the international arena, on the condition that we do not enter into exceptional forbidden cases without the permission of the exalted leadership, and know that by adhering to three principals of honor, wisdom, and expediency we can control possible damages and, even, be more successful in socio-cultural export of the revolution.

It seems suitable that we recount the worries of nations, regimes, powers, and superpowers about the rapid pace and unpredictable events of the world. We must note that under such circumstances we must not fall victim to simple-mindedness, appearances, gullibility, self-effacement, and loathing ourselves and our revolution, and do not fall victim to the artificial and forged majesty of the superpowers. These worries are as follows:

A. Damages to regimes of non-aligned and third world countries as a result of collapse of one superpower and enhancement of another one's ego.

B. Vulnerability of revolutions in the third world as a result of the world becoming single-poled.

C. Vulnerability of humanity in the face of big powers' races in plans such as 92 Europe, greater Germany, and....

It is regrettable if the shadow of these worries causes darkness on the minds of sympathizers of the revolution and make them think that the rapid development of events in the East and the West can have harmful effects on the Islamic revolution and compells them to think and act hastily in order to minimize the possible damage without having enough time to find the causes of change and see if it is the damage of seeking Islam that is shaking the big powers. Or, is it the rapid international changes that can hurt true Islam-seeking. No doubt, seeking Islam in Russia, India, Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, other Muslim countries, and, even, European countries has caused fear among enemies of Islam. Global arrogance wishes to surround the Islamic world with its sinister presence by the fence of simple-mindedness. Surely, we reach a conclusion from this prelude that, not only should the rapid changes and events of the world make us more steadfast, but also in the twelfth year of the Islamic revolution we may be able to take better advantage of the attention of Muslim nations and liberation movements in order to be able to better demonstrate the strengthening characteristics of the regime. In the next issue, we shall review the five characteristics which can guarantee the endurance of revolutions.

[13 May pp 1, 12]

[Text] Part II

Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi

In the first part of this series, we recounted the five characteristics of a firm revolution based on the assertions and remarks made by the exalted leadership. In this article we shall discuss the five characteristics.

At the outset, it is necessary to remark that the martyr-nurturing nation and all Islamic nations are commemorating the anniversary of the passing of the imam. The best salutation of him is unity and solidarity among all strata, trades, viewpoints, and various tastes within the blessed line of the imam. Especially since it is the first anniversary of the passing of the imam, the world is watching to measure us and see if there is unity among us or if our solidarity is incomplete. Our enemies have capitalized on creating division and by the influence of propaganda they spread the seeds of disunity and dispute. They seek to damage the growth of the Islam-seeking trend in the world and do not allow us to succeed in our reconstruction efforts.

It is indeed befitting the imam that we discard differences of opinion, clashes of views, and two-sided criticisms under the present circumstances and respond in unison to the call for solidarity by the exalted leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, who in his speech marking Teachers' Day said: "Do not forsake your solidarity. I especially emphasize on maintaining your solidarity. Stand behind your government. Anyone who has listened to your enemies' propaganda can tell that their emphasis today is on these two points. On the differences. They keep saying there are differences, there are differences."

Enemies capitalize on differences, even though they may be false forged or infused. We must take notice that even if we have legitimate points against each other, we should follow them up through legal channels and refrain from prolonging animosities that please our enemies and saddens our friends in the Islamic world. We shall not allow the Hezbollah forces and the families of martyrs and combatants, who are of both views and trends, to be worried on the anniversary of the passing of the imam.

Our dear leader's remarks are directed at all of us. Both views and schools of thought are responsible for maintaining solidarity and unity so that Satan cannot make us confront each other and make us feel good about our perceptions. We shall not allow ourselves to become the example of this Koranic verse that: "All parties rejoice for what they have."

Now, we shall study the characteristics of a firm revolution:

1. A solid popular base on which the revolution and the revolutionary regime are affixed and a leader and officials who enjoy the highest level of popular confirmation.

It is evident that no matter how short this study, since one of the most important characteristic of any revolution is its popular base, its explanation is essential. Our people are well aware that this revolution, from its early days, has enjoyed exceptional popular support. No such support has been observed and recorded for past revolutions. Also, the leadership of the revolution has had the highest covenant, vote, attention, and confirmation of the people in all phases of laying the foundation of the sacred regime of the Islamic republic. The unprecedented glorification and funeral procession of the sacred body of the imam is indicative of the strength of the popular base of the revolution. The covenant of the people with His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, as the leader of the Islamic revolution after the passing of the imam, is a notable example. The untainted high vote of the people for His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president, the commendable participation of the people in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the victory of the revolution after the passing of the imam, the serious presence of the people on the anniversary of the creation of the Islamic Republic, and their response to the repeated call of the leader of the revolution on Jerusalem Day of this year were all indicative of the continuation and strength of the popular base of the revolution. As long as the leadership of the regime and its high-ranking officials have the covenant and vote of the people to this degree, they have God's hand with them since God's hand is always with God-seeking people. (God's hand is with the crowd.)

Strengthening the popular base of the revolution caused God Almighty to protect this country of believers in the absent imam before all satanic mischiefs to a degree that even the Great Satan is incapable of hurting it and—God willing, with the solidarity and unity of Hezbollah—it will never have the power to do so.

It is on this basis that the dear leader said: "...There is no doubt that if America could have destroy the Islamic Republic regime in the past 11 years it would have done so. But it could not, and this is the realization of what the imam said and with his correct interpretation that America cannot do anything."

Yes, as long as our God-seeking people are present on the scene with their unity and solidarity and, in their obedience to the regime, coordinate their leadership with his rhythm, and stand behind the respected government, no harm will come to them, and the more the enemies of Islam add to their trickeries, Islam will achieve higher plateaus of advancement and evolution. God willing, anyone and any power that stands before it will suffer disgraceful defeat.

To be continued.

[14 May pp 1, 12]

[Text] Part III

Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi

Yesterday we briefly reviewed the first characteristic of a solid and strong revolution which is the realization of the remarks of the exalted leadership. In the light of that, we discussed the need for solidarity and unity among all strata, points of view, and trends that are accepted within the line of leadership and the advice of the leader of the revolution to refrain from divisions and differences. And now, the second characteristic:

2. Firm belief in the everlasting existence of the Almighty, inspiration, prophecy, leadership, and exclusive rule of God on man and the world.

No doubt, stability of the revolution and steadfastness of its forces in confronting anti-revolution forces is not possible with reliance on a greater power. The more the big powers appear stronger in their opposition to the revolution, the revolution's reliance on a greater power must increase.

Experience has shown that the greater the powers of arrogance the more sensitive they become towards revolutions. This applies to the rulers of America, who

cannot even tolerate a small revolution. They do not even stop at economic, political, and military blockade and go as far as breaking mankind's famous and known laws in order to defeat that revolution, bring down its followers, and install its enemies to rule and transform that revolution. In this regard, we read the remarks of the leader of our revolution as follows: "If America does not fear revolutionary governments and their resistance is not impenetrable for it, then why does it want to topple them? If it does not feel the need, then, well America can say that we cut off relations with you and we will not help you. Why does it conspire to destroy it? Because it knows that if [such revolutionary governments] are in power, it cannot impose its will. Then, a revolutionary government can, within its own sphere, push back or stop America. These [Americans] are not as invincible as they pretend to be."

It is needless to say that a besieged revolution must rely on forces more powerful than its opposing forces, or at least to equal ones in order to be able to resist. And this applies to a revolution that has struggled against its internal despotic forces and has attacked the interests of a power, a superpower, or a known arrogant block. Whenever a popular revolution attacks internal uprising, regional corruption, and any rule, exploitation, or colonization then all powers and superpowers conspire and place that revolution under various crushing blockades. If they cannot succeed in destroying or transforming it, then they attempt an all-out war against it. Under such circumstances, a revolution without belief and solid faith in the Almighty, the message, and the Prophet, and belief in the book of God, the day of judgment, and exclusive rule of God on the world and mankind cannot have the strength to resist this incorporation of global arrogance.

It is appropriate to mention an example from among the monotheist revolutions of the Koran and that is the monotheistic revolution of Holy Moses in North Africa and Egypt of those days who, for saving mankind from injustice, atheism, and arrogance was given the task of struggle by God. The pharaoh of the time, when faced with the popular support of that revolution, sought assistance from all powers in the region and sent representatives to Ctesiphon [an ancient city in central Iraq on the Tigris] in order to get help and mobilize forces. [Koranic verse]

Under the circumstances that the joint conspiracies of the arrogant [forces] in the region, lead by the pharaoh, was becoming more evident, Moses ordered the overnight migration of the tribe of Israel. This move was quite calculated and at dawn, when Moses woke up from his sleep of conceit, he realized that the revolutionary forces have broken his siege. Although he [the pharaoh] had thought them to be a small band [small in size] and under siege, but the forces of the pharaoh and arrogance have never been able to tolerate the forces of revolution. The pharaoh pursued Moses and the monotheists of Israel with all his might to the edge of the water and his forces captured the heights overlooking the water. By daybreak the disciples of Holy Moses said that surely we are under siege. Holy Moses, as the leader of the sacred revolution, and based on his noble and inherent faith, claimed without any hesitation that, "My God is with me and he will lead me."

By relying on the everlasting power of God he could declare that if my God is with me, the pharaoh can not do anything and we have no negotiations to conduct with [him] and I oppose any negotiation. God bestowed such favor upon his subject as to drag the pharaoh from the heights overlooking the water and smeared him in mud to make him an example for all those present there and all those who will follow [Arabic phrase]. If monotheists of any age coordinate [their efforts] with the theme of leadership, then arrogance will collapse with the power of God and will become a lesson for future generations.

It is appropriate that we remember our passed imam. In 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] in Neuf le Chateau, Paris a group of Egyptian brothers were meeting the imam in his humble room. The condition of the revolution inside the country was such that the clergy were fighting, teachers of Qom theological seminary, jurists and many clergies from the country, the pious and university crowds, tradesmen, workers, striking office workers, educators, and students were demonstrating, and the tyrannical regime was firing on the people. Under such circumstances, one of the worried Egyptian brothers told the imam that all is coming to an end in Iran and all are under siege. Then, what is the meaning of duty. The imam responded by saying that, "Why are you so worried? Was it not in Egypt that Holy Moses said, 'My God is with me and he will guide me' [Arabic phrase]."

We all declare that, "Our God is with us and he will guide us" [Arabic phrase].

It is appropriate that, with the approaching anniversary of the passing of such a great leader and guide, the whole of the Islamic nation shall ask God to bless us with His blessings and generosity in such a way that is befitting us.

To be continued.

[15 May pp 1, 12]

[Text] Part Four

Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi

In previous issues, we discussed two characteristics of a stable revolution. Now, in continuation of the above discussion, we shall proceed with the third point—in accordance with the understanding of remarks by the exalted leader of our revolution.

3. The possibility of exerting pressure on enemies of the revolution and immunity from pressure [exerted from outside], every revolution, in order to protect and sustain itself, must avoid becoming limited to the four walls of the country. In order to realize such an ideal, it must recognize the need of the majority of the people in the world or be in the process of familiarizing itself with

them. It must have a feeling for injustices to which most people are subject. And then, the leader and the main officials of that revolutionary regime must shape the slogans of the revolution in line with fulfilling the major needs of humanity and raise their cries of objection against oppressive tyrants who spread their injustices indiscriminately.

In other words, recognition of "rights" and understanding "wrongs" must be placed atop the agenda for a cultural movement of a noble revolution. This must be in harmony with the needs of innocent man and his cries [for justice]. No doubt, if such is every revolution and revolutionary regime it will find a place in the hearts of the innocent and downtrodden. The cries against injustice give hope to the innocent and compel them to move. Therefore, such a revolution will not be bound within the limits of a people, tribe, nation, country, or block and, thus, will become universal. With every cry of the downtrodden and innocent, a wave of pressure will build up against the enemies of its revolution.

Indeed, a stable revolution must move in the direction of the aspirations of "involved individuals" and realize the needs and well-justified cries against injustices and tyrannies in the world. Domestically, it must move in the direction of fulfilling public needs and focusing its efforts to soothe the public's pains so that anti-revolution does not find a way to infiltrate and the revolution develops immunity against pressure being exerted.

There were many claimants of popular revolution that failed to stabilize as a result of remaining besieged within a nation and country. There are many examples of revolutions on the world scene that failed to have universal appeal. They did not recognize most of the injustices being applied on mankind. Their being considered on the international arena was merely due to their dependence on or alliance with power blocks. However, they did not succeed and were doomed to destruction because they could not mobilize a universal movement against their enemies. On the other hand, the characteristic of the Islamic revolution was that, the founder of the Islamic republic, from the outset, presented smashing slogans against tyrants, the rebellious [forces], and global arrogance from the East to the West. As a result, every justice-seeking organization and group, within the sphere of understanding the imam's slogan, was harmonizing with the Islamic revolution and, thus, the appearance of a kind of pressure on the enemies of the revolution was evident. As a result, the slogans and correct positioning of the imam and the revolution were becoming more obvious to the point where the enemies of Islam began thinking about a coup d'etat. Not only did they fail, but it resulted in the increased awareness of the world and, especially, the Islam-seekers. Then the plan for attacking Tabas was hatched, the failure of which brought new awareness. The anger of [global] arrogance was the cause for instigating Iraq's Ba'ath regime to attack Iran. The more time passed from the imposed war and the Holy Defense the more evident was the steadfastness [of the people] with limited possibilities, the more miraculous their resistance seemed to be, and the innocent Islam-seeking downtrodden were becoming more helpful.

Finally, the trickery of the great Satan prompted powers and superpowers to hatch an inhuman conspiracy. They occupied the Persian Gulf in order to restrain the revolution. They conducted dastardly attacks against Iranian vessels and [gun]boats and, since they did not achieve any results, they attacked the jetliner which resulted in the martyrdom of over three hundred passengers, men, women, children, and elderly. They made threats which had the stench of a massive war. Meanwhile, nations were recognizing the aspirations of this revolution better than ever [before] and were believing in them. Some simple-minded people were thinking that acceptance of the cease-fire [resolution] will be water on the burning flames of Islam-seeking in the world. On the contrary, the flames of the desire for the rule of God, establishment of independent and free regimes, and, indeed, Islamic republics were heightened. Yes! The [late] imam made the export of the revolution easier by strengthening the slogans and positions. After his death, God willing, his style and method is continuing and will continue within the revolution leading it toward perfection and growth.

However, we must note that export of the revolution without implementation of its slogans inside the country will cause the opening of windows for infiltration of outside pressure. Not only does this damages the immunity of the revolution, but also it will eventually destroy it.

Slogans against inflation and plundering of wealth in capitalist regimes and also slogans against stagnation, unemployment, inadequate income, and concentration of government control in Eastern regimes, if in accord with suitable activities by officials of the revolution, will stop the penetration of external pressures in addition to exertion of pressure on external enemies of the revolution.

However, as slogans against pillage, collecting wealth, and decentralizing governmental (economic) powers are being spread, people observe that [such slogans] are being discarded by some governmental, private, institutional, or cooperative organizations. This way not only is the way for infiltration of alien slogans being cleared, but the revolution's power to exert external pressure is also curtailed. We must be alert, for slogans without action will cause dilution of the role of revolution in the world and its destabilization.

To be continued.

[16 May pp 1, 12]

[Text] Part Five

Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi

In the past issues, we discussed three characteristics of the revolution based on the remarks of the exalted leader of the revolution. Now we shall continue with the fourth characteristic.

4. Refraining from reliance on any block and foreign power with the belief in the fact that: There is no power and might above God's. [Koranic verse] As it is understood from the meaning of revolution, in any revolution there must be changes based on the people's opinion, alternation of unavoidable factors which affect their fate, toppling unwanted rulers, calling into service sympathetic, popular, and dedicated leaders and replacing ruling regimes with popular systems in line with realization of the wishes of the people.

Also, external pressure should have no role in the evolution or implementation of a popular revolution because if foreign powers and their internal elements succeed in their attempts to topple a regime then it will be a power-seeking revolt or coup d'etat. Since soliciting reforms or excess-seeking results from power or dependence on foreign powers, it cannot have any revolutionary role. A true revolution must evolve from among the people, in accordance with popular belief and for realization of popular wishes and cannot rely on foreigners.

The Islamic revolution of the Muslim people of Iran was implemented in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the Islam-seeking people of Iran and based on pure Mohammadan Islam. It had no reliance on foreign powers, and evolved in order to eradicate the dependence of the past corrupt regime, establish true independence for the country, and declare freedom based on the life-giving Islamic laws. The Popular pre-revolution slogans and even those belonging to the most crucial and sensitive times of the revolution during the month of Bahman of 1357 [21 January-19 February 1978] are indicative of this fact. They pronounced independence and freedom to be equal to the Islamic republic and considered non-reliance on the West or the East as realities of the Islamic republic.

The shining point of the Islamic revolution was non-reliance on foreign powers, discarding dependence on the West, and preventing dependence on the East. One must admit that a revolution with such characteristics was phenomenal and a unique and righteous revolution in the history of [world] revolutions.

No doubt, to cut the long dependence on the West and to prevent the new influence of the West or the East, a power above all these was needed—the ultimate power. It was for this reason that most slogans under revolutionary conditions were being echoed with clear emphasis on "God Is Great".

It must be acknowledged and accepted that power and might are in the sole possession of God. The leader of the revolution and his followers declared, with full belief and unequivocally, that there is no power and might above God. [Koranic verse] There is nothing in existence that does not depend on God and declared, in word and deed, that, "There is nothing useful without the power of God Almighty." [Koranic verse]

It must be noted that the imam, from the outset of the Islamic movement, repeatedly recited the phrase, "There is no power and might except God", as was the tradition of other Holy Saints. During the final hours before the revolution, when the declaration of martial law by the Bakhtiar government was announced on the afternoon news of the radio, the [late] imam confronted the military trick by reciting the same. By receiving power from God, who is gracious and powerful, he declared that the declaration of the military government is a trick. He proclaimed that all must disregard the martial law and come out into streets.

Yes, there is no doubt that in order to cut the influence of satanic forces one must take refuge with the almighty and powerful God.

In conclusion [of discussing this characteristic,] it is appropriate to review the remarks of the dear leader of our Islamic revolution in analysis of the defeat of the Nicaraguan revolution where he stated: "In Nicaragua...the popular base of those poor people was not very strong. They had no tolerance for pressure and, from the start, relied upon outsiders. [So] they could not [succeed] and therefore relented."

This short but complete analysis by the leader of the Islamic revolution teaches the Islam-seekers what points must be considered in order for a revolution to remain stable. It also teaches us, the nation of hezbollah, what endeavors and efforts are required of us in order for our Islamic revolution to remain firm.

To be continued, God willing.

[17 May pp 1, 12]

[Text] Last Part

Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi

In the previous issues, we discussed four characteristics of a stable revolution and their analysis within the framework of the Islamic regime and the revolution. Now, we shall discuss the last characteristic.

5. Not being terrified of the artificial and forged might of the superpowers.

Dominating powers will not tolerate revolutions of nations. If they [the superpowers] suffer setbacks and damages during the successful evolutionary course of a revolution, they attempt to create fear and forge might in order to hold back nations from revolution, threaten them, weaken them, and bring about their defeat.

Any revolution can—in proportion to its popular base, faith, and self-reliance—withstand threats, destructions, forged might, and creation of fear by its enemies. Popular and ideological base and self reliance form the

fundamental base of every revolution. The survival of any revolution is relative to the changes that may occur in its fundamental base. As the Holy Koran says: "Each will act in his own way." [Koranic verse]

The Islamic revolution of Iran, based on its foundation, is dependent upon its faith and popular power. It does not expect help from any outsider and does not fear any foreign power. The Islamic revolution was a successful experience for Islamic nations and liberation movements in the world today. Our late imam used to say: "This revolution is a Godly phenomenon which gives the final proof to global arrogance and to the downtrodden, as well."

In confronting the enemy and for popular resistance there is no element more effective than faith in God. The strengthening of this element prevents terror and fear of the forged might of global arrogance. It is for this reason that the Western and the Eastern enemies of the Islamic revolution spend huge amounts of money in order to erode its faith and Islamic pillars. It means that their fight is against the pure Mohammadan Islam.

The dear leader of the Islamic revolution in his important message on the occasion of the Teachers Day emphasized on this fact and said: "Nothing bothers America more about the Iranian people than their faith in Islam and their adherence to pure Mohammadan Islam. It wants you to forsake this adherence. It wants that you do not be proud. [Are you] prepared [for these]?"

Concluding this discussion, it is necessary to note that we are in the period of reconstruction. In this phase, like the previous ones, we must maintain our solidarity, act in accordance with pure Mohammadan Islam, be self-reliant, do not have unreasonable expectations of others, have faith and hope in God-given powers, and without any fears increase our efforts and work. As the respected president, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is fully aware of the capabilities of himself and his government, he has asked all strata and trades of people to work [hard] and be active within the framework of the determined programs.

In this regard the exalted leadership stated: "The issue is Islam. I state that, in order for the world to be mindful of you you must strengthen yourselves. In order for the world to respect the Iranian nation, you must rely on yourself and develop your inherent powers. The scientific force, economic power, work force, and defense and military forces [must be strengthened]. If a nation is strong and united, if a nation relies upon God and does not fear Satan, then that nation will succeed in even forcing its enemies to respect it. Likewise, today—despite all the nonsense that is being said by the media attached to arrogance about the Iranian people and the Islamic regime—all nations who know Iran and its people have respect for you the people of Iran, maintain your self-reliance, do not fear the enemy, and do not be terrified of the mad harangues of America. Maintain your solidarity. I especially emphasize this, [maintain] solidarity and stand behind your government...."

The emphasis of the exalted leadership on solidarity and unity, self-reliance, hard work, not fearing trickeries and deceits, blossoming talents, and insistence on standing behind the government are the keys to success. Especially our solidarity and unity at the first anniversary of the passing of the imam will result in increasing the hopes of Muslims and the downtrodden and the enemies of the revolution will be more disappointed. It is the hope of the hezbollah and martyr-nurturing nation that "we receive from God victory and success."

Pakistan

Secretarial Talks With India Begin

Ahmad Khan, Dubey Attend

BK1807081690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The two-day talks between Pakistan and India on foreign secretaries-level began in Islamabad this morning. The foreign secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, and the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, are leading their delegations at the talks.

India Views Talks With 'Open Mind'

BK1807125990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] India has told Pakistan that the present dialogue in Islamabad has given an opportunity for both sides to arrest the present unfortunate trend in their relations.

The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, set the tone of the Indian side in his opening statement, saying that New Delhi is conscious of the enormous responsibility that rests on its shoulders in defusing the tension between the two countries. He told his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, that India is approaching the present talks at the foreign secretary level with an open mind so that the situation can be defused.

He said the conditions that led to the signing of the Simla Agreement is as much relevant today as it was at that time. The agreement provided the norms and framework for resolving the issue bilaterally. India wants the full implementation of the agreement in its letter and spirit, he said. The foreign secretary-level talks began today.

Dubey Meets Ishaq Khan

BK1807155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan have begun their talks in Islamabad. Two round of talks were held today. The main focus of the discussions was on the identification of the basic sources of the current tension between the two countries. Mr. Muchkund Dubey and

Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan were assisted by senior officers of their respective foreign ministries at the talks, which will continue tomorrow.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that neither India nor Pakistan could afford a war as it would be too destructive for both countries. He was talking to Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Muchkund Dubey who called on him in Islamabad today. The president emphasized that Pakistan neither wants war with India, nor does it want to take any action that might start a war. However, he made it clear that if war was forced upon it, Pakistan would defend every inch of its territory with all its might. He said each country should give up the misleading notion that it could conquer another country. War would not achieve anything other than destruction and ruination.

The president said all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan should be settled on a lasting basis for meaningful and cooperative relations in the real sense. In this connection, he singled out the Kashmir issue and said this has remained unsettled since the partition and has been the main cause of continuing bitterness between the two countries. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan stressed that Kashmir is an outstanding issue—a fact accepted not only in bilateral agreements but by the international community as well. This issue should be settled for good in the interest of lasting peace and friendship. However, if this issue was temporarily suppressed, it will keep on rearing its head.

The Indian foreign secretary assured the president that he had come to Pakistan with an open mind and a sincere desire to find ways to improve the atmosphere of confidence and trust between the two countries. He added that India attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan and feels that relations between the two countries based on cooperation is of vital importance for regional peace and stability. He assured the president that his attitude at the talks with his Pakistani counterpart will be positive.

Delhi Reports Dubey, Ishaq Khan Meeting

BK1807163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The India-Pakistan foreign secretary-level talks began in Islamabad today with India calling for the removal of sources of conflicts and confrontations in their bilateral relations. The Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, said in his opening statement that we must make every effort to achieve this. [passage omitted]

AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that the Indian team was warmly received when they arrived at the venue of the talks. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Later, Mr. Dubey called on the Pakistani president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Mr. Dubey told him of India's sincere desire to establish close and friendly relations with Pakistan. The Pakistani president said that all outstanding problems between India and Pakistan, including Kashmir, should be resolved through dialogue. Mr. Dubey also called on the Pakistani prime minister.

Dubey Meets Premier Bhutto

BK1907085990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Muchkund Dubey, the Indian foreign secretary, had a meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. He conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of the Indian president and the prime minister. The prime minister and the Indian foreign secretary discussed the ways and means of reducing tension between the two countries. In this context, they also discussed the central issues that led to deterioration of relations. The prime minister said that she sincerely wishes the success of talks between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India.

Bhutto Speaks on Peaceful Kashmir Settlement

BK1907090190 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said Pakistan does not want a conflict with India and desires to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully through negotiations in accordance with international law. She was talking to newsmen on arrival at Lahore airport from Islamabad this morning on a short visit to the provincial capital.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said she had full confidence in the capabilities of the Armed Forces and the unity of the people. In case subversion was committed against Pakistan, it would be repelled with full force.

Answering a question about the constitutional powers of the Armed Forces in Sindh, she said the provincial government had called the army in a [word indistinct] under Article 147 of the Constitution. This means that the fundamental rights of the people remain intact.

About the progress made by the conciliation committee for improving working relationship between the center and Punjab, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said it has made some headway. She hoped that it would achieve success gradually. Replying to a question about Shariat [Islamic jurisprudence] bill, the prime minister said it was yet to be debated by the National Assembly.

Paper Criticizes Western Policy on Kashmir

BK1407164390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 July 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Against the tide"]

[Text] Some of the beans of the Western blueprint for the "resolution" of the Kashmir dispute have been spilled out by a recent report in "The Times," London, as reproduced by a national Urdu daily in Pakistan on Friday [13 July]. The bottomline of the reported strategy

in this regard is how to bail India out of the difficult situation it faces in the occupied valley of Kashmir without New Delhi's having to concede the valiant freedom fighters' demands. It is understandable that the United States should consider itself capable of twisting the arm of the elected government as Islamabad even to the extent of the latter's becoming a willing party to the contemplated scheme on Kashmir. But Washington would be fooling itself if it believed that any Pakistani regime—representative as also dictatorial—can afford to ditch the cause of Kashmir's freedom from the Indian yoke. This has become all more relevant in the current phase when not only is there a government in power at Islamabad which has been elected by the people of this country but the Kashmiri Mujahiddin have through their blood activated their cause of freedom as never before in the post-colonial era.

But it is the audacity of the Western powers in choosing to act as the spokesmen of the democratic government of Pakistan in a vein which conflicts with the groundswell of popular sentiment in this country on the Kashmir issue which is even more alarming. Highlighting the difference of perceptions between the various components of Pakistan's establishment, "The Times" is reported to have suggested that the army was behaving irresponsibly by demanding that Prime Minister Bhutto took a tougher line with India on the Kashmir qauestion. If the situation between India and Pakistan continued to deteriorate, the United States would cut off all aid to Pakistan and the generals here would thereby get their answer as to why Ms Bhutto has been soft-pedalling on Kashmir, according to the report. This report has come at the heels of the warning issued by leaders of the seven rich states from Houston regarding the outbreak of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

The fundamental mistake which our 'friends' in the West are making in this context is to entertain exaggerated notions of the ability of the civilian Pakistan government to move against the mounting tide of feelings within this country on the Kashmiri freedom struggle and the accompanying barbarity of the Indian occupation forces. The question that the London newspaper has ascribed to the generals here is in fact shared by this nation at large. Washington is certainly not helping Ms Benazir Bhutto or whatever goodwill the United States may have with the people of Pakistan by counterpoising itself together with the incumbent regime at Islamabad against the collective will of this nation.

Azad Kashmir Leader Speaks on Kashmiris' Struggle

BK1307145290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 13 Jul 90

[Text] Chaudhry Sultan Mahmud, the president-designate of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the international community is becoming increasingly aware of the tragic plight of the people of the Indian-occupied Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad on his return from a tour of the United Kingdom today, he said that during his meetings with British leaders, he informed them of the latest situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir and the serious violation of human rights by Indian forces. He also informed them that the Kashmiri people will continue to wage their struggle until and unless they achieve their right of self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Sri Lanka

Minister Says 'Hardcore' LTTE Cadre Immobilized

BK1907102990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has claimed that the hardcore cadres of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have been either killed or immobilized in the current operations against the militants. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen in Colombo today that about 800 LTTE men and 543 security personnel have lost their lives since the escalation of hostilities. He also informed that about 40,000 Tamils are being housed in a large camp in Mannar District.

Our Colombo correspondent Karuppaswamy reports that 10 LTTE militants have been killed and several others injured in the Northeastern Province since yesterday.

Government Offensive Kills Over 100 Rebels

BK1807081590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 18 (AFP)—Hundreds of government troops backed by the Air Force smashed rebel positions in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing more than 100 Tamil guerrillas, military officials and press reports said Wednesday [18 July]. A military spokesman here said that troops shot dead 99 guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in northern Mankulam during a major offensive Tuesday [17 July] backed by helicopter gunships and ground attack aircraft. Three soldiers were also killed in the offensive in Mankulam while 14 others were wounded, he added.

The state-owned daily news said that in another operation in Mandur in eastern Batticaloa, troops killed "50 terrorists." The military spokesman could not confirm the LTTE casualties in Mandur but said that helicopter gunships had engaged large numbers of fleeing rebels there on Tuesday after troops had swooped on the guerrillas. He said that two Tamil civilians had been killed when the Tigers opened fire on a state bus plying in the same district. No further details were available.

It was not known what aircraft were used in the operation in Mankulam, but the Air Force has been deploying some four Italian-made Siai Marchetti aircraft to bomb rebel targets in the war-ravaged northeast.

The troop assault was launched as the LTTE prepared to tighten its grip on the Mankulam army camp it has

besieged since hostilities between government troops and the Tigers resumed on June 11, military officials said.

The violence has so far left more than 1,800 people dead including many civilians caught in the crossfire across the sprawling Tamil-majority northeast, according to unofficial and official sources.

The military crackdown in Mankulam came days after Colombo moved one of its top soldiers, Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, known for his expertise in combatting guerrilla warfare, from the east to head the northern command.

On Monday [16 July], Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said that several battalions, involving thousands of troops, had also been moved from the Eastern Province to the island's northern region to fight the Tigers.

Tuesday's fighting comes almost a week after the LTTE overran the northern Kokkuvil Army Camp, located near Mankulam, killing some 45 soldiers. The storming of Kokkuvil has made the Army reinforce most of its besieged northern camps including Mankulam, Jaffna Fort, Kankesanthurai and Elephant Pass. The guerrillas were continuing sporadic rocket and mortar fire on the camps, the spokesman added.

He said that a major operation by the army had also got underway in eastern Vellaveli where two LTTE bunkers were captured after heavy resistance. He said the number of LTTE casualties was not known.

Meanwhile, security forces conducting search operations in Kalmunai in the eastern Ampara have found an abandoned LTTE hideout in which they recovered several uniforms believed to have been worn by abducted policemen.

The LTTE seized more than 600 policemen in the northeast when they renewed their bloody campaign for a separate Tamil state called Eelam.

Colombo has affirmed that nearly 300 of the police hostages have been massacred by the rebels and has said that the LTTE was unlikely to spare the rest. The Tigers have denied the charge.

130 LTTE Militants Killed in Northeast

BK1807092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, more than 130 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants and three soldiers were killed in fierce gun battles in northeastern part of the country. A military spokesman said in Colombo today that 91 LTTE cadres were killed at Mankulam in the north yesterday when troops cleared bunkers outside a military camp that had been under siege over the past three weeks. Three soldiers were killed and 14 wounded in counterattacks by the rebels.

At Manor in the east, the security forces shot dead at least 40 LTTE men in operations against the LTTE. Security forces said the rebels bombarded the Mankulam camp with mortar and rocket fire over the past few days. The spokesman said the army backed by helicopter gunships began the operation to clear rebel bunkers outside the camp on Monday [16 July].

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, has said that the current offensive is only against the LTTE and not against Tamils. He said his government will do all to ensure communal harmony in the island. Speaking to groups of parliamentarians in Colombo, Mr. Premadasa called upon officials and people's representatives to cooperate with the government in containing terrorism.

Defense Ministry on Operations Against LTTE

BK1807120890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The Ministry of Defense says that the security forces conducting flushing out operations in the Eastern Province encountered a group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Bakkiella and (Sinnawatte) areas in the Amparai District, who had for the past few weeks attacked Sinhalese villages. The security forces encountered this group of LTTE terrorists, and in the ensuing gun battle eight terrorists, including the LTTE leader, (Reagan), were killed. In this operation, one officer was killed and two soldiers were injured. The security forces continued the operations to clear the Bakkiella, (Sinnawatte) and Badulla Junction areas of LTTE terrorists.

The security forces have also conducted operations to give security to the villagers on the borders of Amparai, Kalmunai, and Akkaraipattu. Several LTTE terrorists attempting to flee in two boats across the lagoon of (Kodaichole) were killed by the security forces.

Troops conducting search operations in Batticaloa town area arrested a few LTTE cadres, including a hard-core LTTE terrorist. In the Northern Province, LTTE terrorists continue to direct mortar, rocket and machine gun fire to the Jaffna Fort, Kankesanturai and Elephant Pass army camps. The mortar attacks at the Elephant Pass Army camp is directed from the premises of the Salt Corporation and it is observed that the LTTE terrorists have now occupied the buildings of the Salt Corporation. The security forces have repulsed these attacks with counter mortar fire.

Meanwhile, unofficial sources said that heavy fighting took place in Mankulam yesterday between the security forces and LTTE terrorists. The sources said that a large number of terrorists, including several LTTE leaders, were killed in the confrontation. The security forces continued their attacks last night.

Indian Announcement on Noninterference Hailed

BK1707132590 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 3 Jul 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Colombo must call the shots..."]

[Text] India has, once again, gone on record with the assertion that she will not intervene in the war that is now being fought in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces and urged that peace talks begin.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's statement, made during a lecture he delivered on Saturday on Indian foreign policy in the southern city of Gujarat, came hard on the heels of similar assurances by Prime Minister V.P. Singh. The emerging signals are—that the centre in New Delhi, at least, left to its own devices, would like to stay clear of the conflict.

But, as we have been stressing before, the Tamil Nadu factor is important, and Chief Minister Karunanidhi has been making his own noises. He is already on record saying that medical facilities in his State would be available for the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] wounded.

Mr. Karunanidhi's DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] is part of the ruling National Front coalition, and Delhi will not altogether be unmindful of what Indian diplomats call "sub-regional sentiments".

This was evident in last week's statement by India's official spokesman who expressed Delhi's anguish and concern at the increasing intensity of the war in Sri Lanka. The statement referred to the loss of life, civilian suffering and the "hundreds of thousands of people rendered homeless".

However, the spokesman—who is an official of the Indian External Affairs Ministry, reflecting the foreign office thinking in what he says at the evening news briefings in the capital—had a final paragraph in his statement which re-asserted that the Indian government will not permit its territory to be used by "any group of militants for their activities".

Certainly, the Sri Lankan people are at this moment suffering greater anguish about the plight of their brothers and sisters in the North and the East than anybody else. War is an ugly business and civil war is worse.

Nobody in this country can relish the prospect of the hurt that is being inflicted on innocent civilians, no less than of the country's security forces being maimed and killed by the LTTE's percussion mines.

Time was when diplomats and analysts in Colombo were certain that, whatever happened on the Indian subcontinent, that Delhi would never seek to intervene directly in a military way in the war that was being fought then in the North and the East of this country. But the infamous food drops of 1987, after the operation at Vadamarachchi proved that the Rajiv Gandhi government at least was quite willing to intervene militarily.

A lot of water has flowed under the bridges since then. The IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] has come, and gone. The LTTE has killed more Indian soldiers than the numbers India lost in two wars with Pakistan. The Tigers have run wild in Madras and massacred the leadership of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] which the Indians backed and armed as they fought the LTTE. But yet the Tigers are able to garner support from the powers-that-be, in Madras.

The letter that the Eelavar Democratic Front (EDF was previously EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students]) MPs [members of Parliament] wrote to President Premadasa over the week-end, certainly reflected the heat that the LTTE must surely be feeling today. EROS, after all, was once the LTTE's closest ally and it is significant that it has not been, like the other Tamil groups, the target of LTTE guns.

Certainly, as elected representatives of the people of the north and east, the EDF has every right to speak for the suffering of the civilians. But has it—or, for that matter, India—spoken out about the LTTE's role in the current carnage? Why is not pressure being brought to bear on the Tigers by those who can bring such pressure?

Neither the government nor the people of Sri Lanka relish death and destruction. But the LTTE, which has been the cause of so much suffering in this country, cannot be given carte blanche to set up a fascist dictatorship in any part of Sri Lanka.

The fighting must stop as quickly as possible. But this time it cannot be on the LTTE's terms. Colombo must call the shots.